Entertainment / A2-1
Claudine on Cloud 9 in her dream home with her dream man

■ Metro / A22
Tale of 3 sisters in Ramos murder case: Victim, suspect, witness

■ Across / A17
Death toll in bus crash in Benguet rises to 29

■ News / A3
Petron rolls back gasoline price by P1.25 effective today

■ World / A10
White House, US Capitol evacuated as plane breaches air space

Doc assures Erap 'bionic' knees will hold up in bed

HINDI TUHOD ANG GINAGAMIT DUN, UTAK!

By Nelson F. Flores

AS THOUGH he didn't have enough to worry about, deposed President Joseph Estrada, on trial for plunder, worries that his knee transplant will af-

DOC/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Defensor seeks Corpus post, calls him psychotic

BEFORE another "creature" like retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus gets the post, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor is staking his claim on the chairmanship of Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC).

Defensor said he would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to reappoint him NRDC board chair after Corpus resigned allegedly

DEFENSOR/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, May 13, 2005 ★★ 92 pages 13 sections Vol. 20 No. 154 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Now, it's BIR going after CAP

OUTRAGE DOWN UNDER

Mistreated Fil-Aussie found in Olongapo

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—A naturalized Australian citizen who was wrongly deported by the Australian government to the Philippines was found in a hospice here on Thursday, four years after she was reported missing.

Vivian Alvarez, 42, who was born in Cebu, was found at the Missionaries of Charity hospice in Barangay Old Cabalan, days after Australian Prime Minister John Howard apologized for her deportation.

"I want to see my children," Alvarez told officials of the Australian Embassy who visited her. Her two children are in Australia, according to Fr. Michael Duffin, chaplain of St. Vincent Church that runs the center.

Howard promised on Thursday to bring Alvarez back to Australia if she wanted to return, as the government denied claims it had known all along where she was but didn't say so because her case was an embarrassment.

The case of Alvarez, who holds dual Philippine-Australian citizenship, forms part of a debate raging in Australia about the Howard government's immigration policies, which have been criticized by international rights groups as too harsh and

MISTREATED/ A21

AP

MISSING for 4 years. Her whereabouts unknown since 2001, Vivian Alvarez, who was wrongfully deported from Brisbane, is under the care of the Missionaries of Charity.

Top execs charged with tax evasion

By Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana

THERE seems to be no end to the problems of embattled pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Inc. (CAP).

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) yesterday filed with the Department of Justice tax evasion charges against top executives of CAP and its subsidiary for failing to pay P85.5 million in taxes from May 2004 to February 2005.

"This is swindling or estafa for misappropriating money they received in trust. CAP did not remit taxes it withheld and pay VAT," BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said.

Charged were CAP president Enrique Sobrepeña Jr., treasurer Alfredo Collado and assistant treasurer Conrado Munasque. Sobrepeña as president of Comprehensive Annuity Plans and Pension Corp. (CAP Pension), James Marsh Thomson as its treasurer and Romulo Espaldon as its assistant treasurer were also charged by the BIR.

The case filed with the DOJ was one of two lawsuits filed against CAP and its officers in as many weeks.

On April 27, a group of CAP plan holders filed a class suit with the Makati Regional Trial Court, urging it to appoint a receiver to immediately take over the management of CAP, which is having trouble delivering on its promise to pay the college tuition of the children of its plan holders.

NOW/ A21

EDWIN BACASMAS

DECORATED. President Arroyo confers the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Datu on US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone during his farewell call on Thursday. His three-year tour of duty ends today.

Mayor still suspect in Agustin slay

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The murder of Starline Times Recorder publisher-editor Philip Agustin in Dingalan, Aurora, on Tuesday might not have been related to his job as a journalist, the chief of the police task force investigating the murder said.

An alleged land scam that Agustin supposedly hatched a few years ago was developing as a strong angle in the murder, Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, also chief of police operations in Central Luzon, said yesterday.

While investigators were focusing on the supposed land scam as the motive for the murder, Palad said the task force continued to work on other leads.

"We're still not discounting that Agustin had been a critic of Mayor Ylarde," he said.

Ylarde, according to Palad, remained a suspect.

Senior Supt. Amador Pabus-

MAYOR/ A21

ENVOY'S LAST DAY

Military: Cotabato no terror 'doormat'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Nikko Dizon

THE MILITARY yesterday flatly denied that foreign terrorists had entered the country through Cotabato, as claimed by outgoing US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, Armed Forces public information chief, said the military was well aware of all the entry points along the Cotabato shoreline and had stationed Army and paramilitary troops there.

"It is assured that no entry has been reported in recent years," Pascual said when reached for comment.

On Wednesday at a news forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap), Ricciardone described Cotabato as a "doormat" for international terrorists.

He said this was why a US-funded road project in the province was shelved.

"Put it this way: We don't want to build a road that these people will use in coming in and out of Cotabato," Ricciardone said.

He added: "We don't want to build a road that's going to make it easier for bombers to sneak in and

MILITARY/ A5

THE GROUNDWORK for a political unity summit in July turns into a contentious exchange among members of the standing committee capped by the walkout of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago (extreme right), who called the affair "useless" even as it attempts to manifest a firm political will to reform the parties and solve the country's wide-ranging problems. Also in photo are Speaker Jose de Venecia (foreground), Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

ERIK ARAZAS

Miriam hurls challenge but no one listens

By TJ Burgonio

IF YOU want to offer credible solutions to the country's pressing problems, you must first renounce plans to run for reelection.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago issued this challenge to representatives of major political parties and various party-list groups which met yesterday to draw up socioeconomic reforms and forge an action plan amid talk of a coup attempt against the increasingly unpopular President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Let's all sign a written declaration that we will not run for public office so that the results of this conference can be taken as a work of scholarship rather than as a political roadshow," Santiago, the feisty leader of the Peo-

MIRIAM/ A6

OAKWOOD MUTINY

96 junior officers want to cut deal, too

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

WITH the successful plea bargain by their subordinates on Wednesday, most of the 96 junior officers who mounted the Oakwood mutiny in July 2003 are seeking a similar deal with military authorities.

Sixty-seven junior officers expressed a desire to enter into a plea bargain at the time that the 184 enlisted men were negotiating one. The 29 core leaders of the so-called Magdalo group, however, remained silent on the matter.

But military prosecutors are so far cool to discussing a plea bargain with the officers.

"During the time of our plea bargaining agreement they wanted to include some of the officers, except the core leaders. We said, 'Let's not talk about it yet. We talk about the soldiers first, then we can talk again,'" said prosecutor Col. Al Perreras.

When asked, however, whether the core leaders had a chance at a plea bargain, Perreras said it was "possible." He added: "They're allowed by the rules."

But Sen. Alfredo Lim called on

96 JUNIOR/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Palawan. The rest of the country will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers or thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

PMA alumni bare road scam

By Leila B. Salaverria

PHILIPPINE Military Academy alumni belonging to Class '59 have sought to stop a foreign-funded Department of Public Works and Highways road project allegedly overpriced by over P200 million.

PMA '59 Foundation Inc., whose members are retired military and police officers, yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court to recall the DPWH resolution that awarded the P952-million Phase I Contract of the Catanduanes Circumferential Road Project to China Road and Bridge Corp. in 2004.

According to the alumni, the government's Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), which was the ceiling price for the repair and rehabilitation of the Catanduanes road, was set at P738,710,563.67.

The DPWH, however, awarded the contract to the Chinese firm even though it submitted a bid of P993,183,904.98. The bid was later amended to P952,564,821.71, still P213 million higher than the ceiling price.

The project is funded with a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Named respondents in the petition were Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, National Treasurer Norma Lasala and China Road and Bridge Corp.

The seven Class '59 members who attended a press conference on the project yesterday were former Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya, former Defense Assistant Secretary Plaridel Garcia, former police Region 1 director Gen. Miguel Abaya, former PNP Director General Raul Imperial, former chief of naval forces in the Visayas Commodore Edgardo Gallos, former director of the government arsenal Col. Niciyo Festin, and former Camp Crame commander Col. Arnulfo Obillos.

Garcia, the class president, said the foundation found out about the alleged overpricing when they met to discuss reforms in the PMA and learned about the law on contract ceilings.

"*Walang halong pulitika dito* (This is not political). Our decision was to go to the Supreme Court and not to the streets," he said.

The project involves the rehabilitation and improvement of a 79.818-km stretch of the Catanduanes Circumferential Road which passes through the towns of San Andres, Sta. Domingo, Virac, Bato and Viga.

Roque said the contract violated the Government Procurement Reform Act (Republic Act No. 9184), which prescribes a ceiling for bids for government contracts. Abaya had co-authored the law, which seeks to stop corruption.

Section 31 of RA 9148 states: "Bid prices that exceed this ceiling shall be disqualified outright from further participating in the bidding."

Roque said the contract also violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

"They [gov't officials concerned] are liable for entering into a contract grossly disadvantageous to the government," he said at the press conference.

The foundation said that aside from the Catanduanes project, they had identified 24 other projects with contracts that exceeded their prescribed ceilings.

They said the total amount of the ABCs for the 25 foreign-funded projects, including the Catanduanes project, was P19.57 billion, but the awarded contracts amounted to P25.66 billion, an excess of P6.09 billion.

GMA vows returns from fiscal reforms

By Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgunio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised that the "returns" from the fiscal reform measures that she got from Congress, the latest being the new Value Added Tax law, would be "invested wisely."

The President appeared relieved that the last of her major revenue reforms, the VAT bill, finally got through after the House ratified it the Wednesday night.

The Senate had ratified the VAT measure a day earlier, which was expected to generate P28.75 billion for the government in the remaining months of the year and P105 billion next year.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Arroyo would sign the VAT law as soon as enrolled copies of the VAT law reached Malacañang.

"Last night with the passage of the VAT law in the House, we have hurdled legislation to put our fiscal house in order, including the sin tax on alcohol and cigarettes," President Arroyo said in a speech at the Manila Diamond Hotel in Manila.

Ms Arroyo said aside from the revenue measures, her administration had passed a "fiscally responsible" national budget, started to privatize the electric power sector and passed a law that would encourage employees of revenue-generating agencies to step up their collection.

The measures, the President said, were meant to achieve a balanced budget for government by the end of her term in 2010 as well as fund her pro-poor program.

"I assure our people that the returns from the implementation of the fiscal reform measures will be invested wisely," President Arroyo said.

But at the House, minority lawmakers who walked out Wednesday night following the passage of the VAT measure are now preparing for a legal battle.

"We could no longer find justice in this House. They're not anymore following the rules of the House," declared Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico who, along with Reps. Jacinto Paras, Rodolfo Plaza and Vicent Crisologo, walked out of the chamber after a botched attempt to derail the ratification of the bicameral conference committee report on VAT.

It was a tension-filled session complete with a shouting match between the presiding officer and Suplico et al. who all accused the leadership of railroading proceedings.

"We raised a question of quorum but by sheer majority vote, they have ignored everything we have raised," said Paras who confirmed that the minority would petition the Supreme Court to strike down the measure as unconstitutional.

With a vote of 145-36, the House finally ratified the bicam report at 10:41 p.m. Wednesday.

In the upper house, Sen. Ralph Recto allayed fears that passage of the VAT measure would trigger higher electric and petroleum prices, saying that the bill incorporated measures designed to mitigate its impact.

Recto, who drafted the measure with Rep. Jesli Lapus, said that Manila Electric Co. consumers who use up an average of 194 kilowatt hour a month would incur only an additional 56 centavos per kwh or an additional P106.91 in their bills.

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L300 AF	535,000	72,000	21,102	15,034	10,515
L300 WT	557,000	78,400	21,970	15,652	10,947
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303,500	25,292	16,861	12,646	9,323	7,476	6,520
310,000	25,833	17,222	12,917	9,551	7,659	6,680
267,500	22,292	14,861	11,146	8,225	6,596	5,753
278,500	23,208	15,472	11,604	8,612	6,900	6,023
279,500	23,292	15,528	11,646	8,647	6,934	6,048

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Petron hikes, then rolls back gas price by P1.25

A DAY after hiking the prices of its gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter, Petron Corp. rolled back the price of its gasoline by P1.25 effective 12:01 a.m. today.

This after the other oil players did not follow the quasi-government firm's lead but instead rolled back their gasoline prices by P1 per liter beginning yesterday up to tomorrow.

The other oil firms, however, hiked their diesel and kerosene prices by 25 centavos a liter, 25 centavos lower than Petron's price increase implemented yesterday.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Seaoil Petroleum orp. adjusted their prices at 2 p.m. yesterday, followed by Unioil Petroleum Phil. Inc. at 6 p.m.

The price adjustments of Caltex Phil. Inc. and Flying V took place at 12:01 a.m. today, while that of Total (Phil.) Corp. would take effect at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

"This decision to roll back gasoline (prices) reflects current international market conditions. Seaoil stays true to its commitment to reflect international prices more frequently, while at the same time continuing to be sensitive to the needs of the Filipino consumer," Seaoil president Glenn Yu said.

All the other oil firms cited the same reason for their price adjustments.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. hiked fuel prices by the same level at 6 p.m., also yesterday.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have gone up eight times by a total of P4.35 a liter, while prices of diesel fuel have increased nine times by a total of P4.55 a liter. *Abigail L. Ho*

NEWSBRIEFS

Another 'apo' for First Couple

NEITHER a doctor, an actress or a politician, just a morally upright citizen.

This is Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo's simple wish for his new born child, Marie Angelique, the third granddaughter of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 6.2-pound Marie Angelique was born at 7:05 a.m. at the Medical City. She was named after her mom, Angela Montenegro, while her elder sister, Mikaela Gloria, was named after her grandmother. The other grandchild in the First Family is Eva Victoria, daughter of Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo and wife Maria Victoria.

"I feel good. I feel even more inspired to legislate for fiscal reforms for the society that my daughter will live in," said the congressman in a phone interview with Malacañang reporters. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Seamen now top HIV carriers

MOVE over sex workers. Seamen are slowly becoming the leading carriers of HIV and AIDS virus.

Of the 2,250 Filipinos afflicted with the disease as of last March, 33 percent or 745 were overseas Filipino workers, according to the data released by the Department of Health yesterday. Seamen lead the way with 266, or 36 percent, of them carrying HIV-AIDS.

The new figures belie common impression that Filipinos working as entertainers or sex workers abroad were most vulnerable to the virus transmitted either through sexual intercourse or blood transfusion.

In the DOH records, 126 domestic helpers, 69 employees, 51 health workers, and 50 entertainers were also found to be HIV carriers. Health workers include nurses, caregivers, health educators, medical technologists, pharmacists, physical therapists and physicians. *Christian V. Esguerra*

'Howling wilderness' once again

BAYAN Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to order Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. to stop his unit's military offensives, particularly in Calbiga, Samar, which had forced some 900 residents from upland villages to flee their homes.

"(Palparan) is virtually re-transforming Samar into the bloody 'howling wilderness' it was when (American) Gen. Jake Smith wreaked his brutal havoc in the early 1900s. People are being massacred yet the Malacañang remains mum," Ocampo said.

Eleven activists have been killed since February and four attempted murders and 98 documented cases of human rights violations have been reported since Palparan assumed the command of the Army's 8th Division, Ocampo claimed. *Philip C. Tubeza, Franco Emman Von Cena*

Jollibee joins RP tourism drive

JOLLIBEE, the country's biggest fast food chain, will help the Department of Tourism promote travel destinations and cultural events in the country through the chain's "Beeyahe Na! Bida ang Saya sa Pilipinas" campaign.

The DOT said that under its agreement with the fastfood chain, Jollibee's 500 stores from Tuguegarao in the north to Basilan in the south will work with travel agencies and tour operators by providing Jollibee meals in hotels and resorts.

PCGG asked to open books of coco funds

By Alcuin Papa

FOLLOWING accusations of funds misuse in the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, a farmer's organization yesterday called on the Presidential Commission on Good Government to open the books of the entire coco levy funds for audit.

Only an "open, transparent, public financial and management audit" of the funds can determine if these have been misused, said the Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment Foundation (Peace) in a letter sent to new PCGG chair Camilo Sabio.

"This audit should determine once and for all how coco levy monies, including profits, are being used, whether there are abuses and whether the small coconut farmers are benefiting from the coco levy," said Peace president Manuel Quimbao.

Last week, Sabio's predecessor Haydee Yorac, wrote to the president of the UCPB, the CIIF administrator, to bring to his attention the unwarranted perks and overspending of top CIIF officials led by its president, Rolando Golez.

The public outcry led to Golez's resignation. Malacañang recently appointed Danny Coronacion to replace Golez.

The coco levy funds, now estimated to reach P140 billion, came from the forced tax collected from coco farmers in the 1970s and 1980s under a presidential decree imposed by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The funds, which the courts have ruled belong to the government in trust for coconut farmers, are lodged in 47 percent shares in San Miguel Corp. and 82 other corporations, including the United Coconut Planters Bank and the CIIF that were bought with the coco levy money.

The CIIF in turn is composed of five companies involved in the milling and refining of coconut oil, and two export marketing corporations based in the United States.

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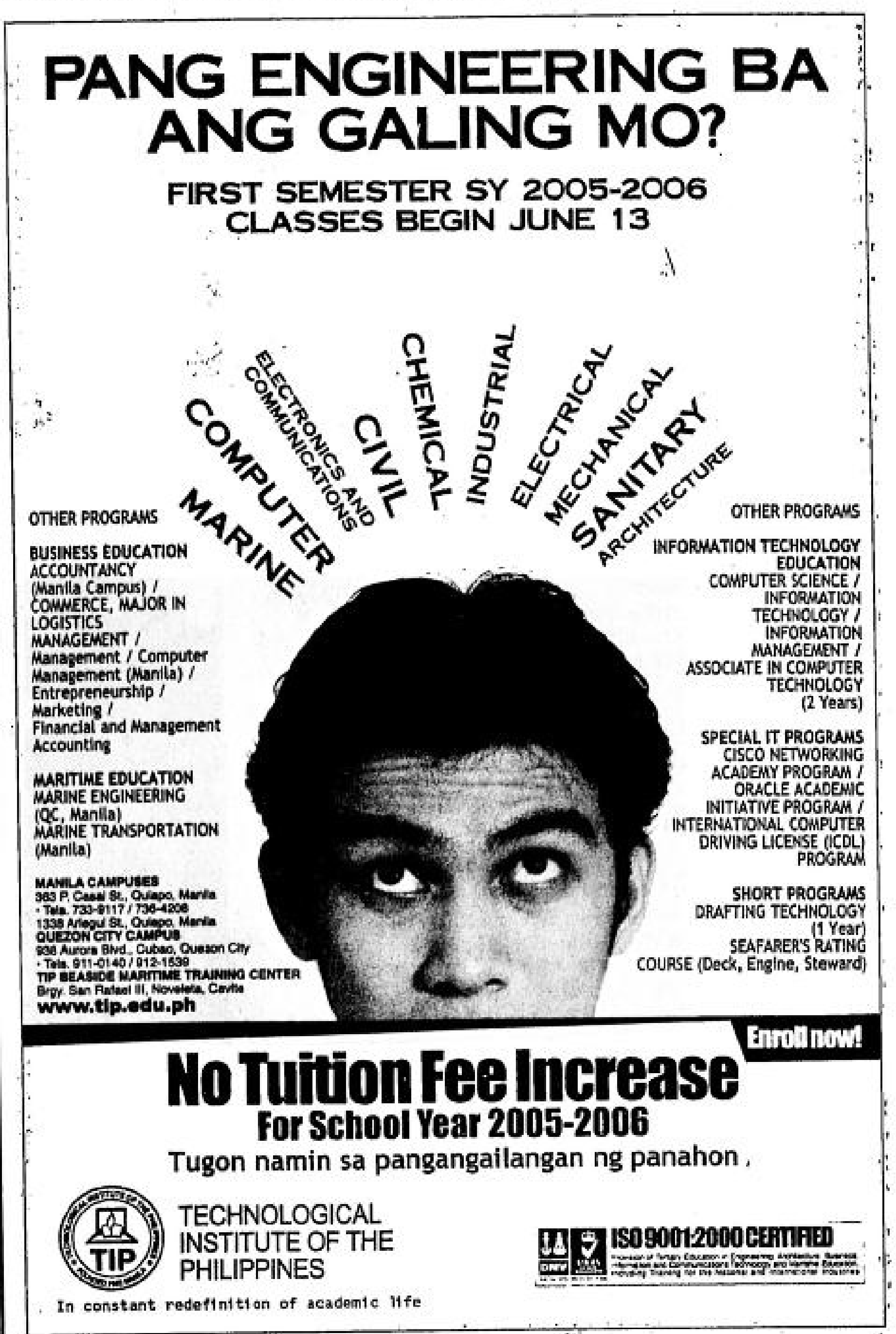

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FACT NO. 1: In 1996, the BCDA guaranteed John Hay Special Economic Zone (SEZ) tax incentives and Duty Free privileges.

In 1996, the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) publicly invited the private sector to bid for the development of 246.9967 hectares of the John Hay Special Economic Zone with guaranteed tax incentives and duty free privileges.

FACT NO. 2: Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) spurred Camp John Hay's development as Baguio's premier tourism and conference complex.

CJHDevCo successfully bid, and was awarded, the Camp John Hay Project. Relying on BCDA's guarantee of SEZ tax incentives and duty free privileges, CJHDevCo, in good faith, aggressively developed Camp John Hay, eventually turning it into a premier destination that put luster back into Baguio City's tourism and conventions appeal. Since 1996, over 3 million visitors - from Baguio residents to local and international tourists, have enjoyed the superb facilities of the new and much improved John Hay. Moreover, CJHDevCo created employment for over 6,000 workers throughout its facilities :

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- Soon to open 287-unit Camp John Hay Suites.

FACT NO. 3: The Supreme Court cancels John Hay SEZ Tax Incentives and Duty Free Privileges after 7 years of successful operation.

The Supreme Court rendered a Decision on 24 October 2003 nullifying the John Hay SEZ tax incentives and duty free privileges, and affirmed with finality on 29 March 2005. This only served to highlight the material breach of BCDA's guarantee of SEZ tax incentives and duty free privileges to CJHDevCo and its sub-locators, investors, buyers and concessionaires.

FACT NO. 4: Despite the efforts of some sectors to tarnish the image of CJHDevCo, it remains a company in Good Standing.

Prior to the Supreme Court Decision, CJHDevCo was in good standing in relation to its rental obligations in accordance with the 18 July 2003 Memorandum of Agreement. Now that the John Hay SEZ tax incentives and duty free privileges have been withdrawn, tax experts conservatively estimate that CJHDevCo would have to contend with a potential tax exposure of almost five billion pesos which was never considered when BCDA induced CJHDevCo to bid and enter into the Lease Agreement and subsequent Memoranda of Agreement (MOA).

FACT NO. 5: CJHDevCo is committed to honoring its lease contract with BCDA.

CJHDevCo is willing to honor its lease commitments to BCDA on condition that BCDA honor its warranty and contractual covenant under the original Lease Agreement giving CJHDevCo the right to enjoy the John Hay SEZ tax incentives and duty free privileges. Sadly, BCDA has refused to heed CJHDevCo's just demands.

OUR URGENT APPEAL TO THE BCDA...
Stand by your guarantees!

We pray in the spirit of fairness, decency and justice, that the BCDA simply honor its guarantees (John Hay SEZ Tax incentives and Duty Free privileges) so that CJHDevCo in turn can faithfully honor its lease commitments.

In the alternative, CJHDevCo requests BCDA to join in a constructive effort to immediately find a workable solution to the predicament created by the Supreme Court Decision... for the benefit of the general public, the local and international tourists and Baguio residents who continue to enjoy the facilities and amenities of Camp John Hay.

Lastly, CJHDevCo urges BCDA to uphold the national interest by preserving the integrity of the government's privatization program thus sending a clear message to local and foreign investors that the Philippine government stands by its word and honors its guarantees.

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CAMP JOHN HAY

Military: Cotabato no terror 'doormat'

From page A1

out in the dead of night and elude the [AFP]."

But Pascual said the AFP had known all the entry points along the Cotabato shoreline for years.

Tightly guarded

He also reminded the envoy that Cotabato had always been a doorway to Mindanao: "Historically, southern Mindanao is connected by religion and trade with Southeast Asians. The shoreline of Cotabato is definitely wide, but the door is tight [due to] natural coral and rocks."

The landing shores are covered with regular Army troops and paramilitary men, according to Pascual.

"The entry points were known by the [AFP] years before," he said. "That's why they are closed by the deployment. It is assured that no entry has been reported in recent years."

In Cotabato City, Mayor Muslimin Sema called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to do something about Ricciardone's statement, which, he said, was damaging to the future of Filipinos.

Sema also said the envoy must prove his country's "irresponsible intelligence report."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, declined to comment.

'Seductively beautiful'

Ricciardone is scheduled to leave for Washington at 7 a.m. today on a Northwest Airlines flight.

At the Focap news forum in Makati, the envoy said he was leaving the Philippines with the belief that this "seductively beautiful country" and the United States had attained a revitalized relationship that involved a continuing fight against international terrorism.

"I hope you won't be surprised if I tell you that I am leaving with a fair degree of confidence and optimism about this country and its future, and particularly about our future—the future of the American-Philippine partnership," he said.

"For it's overwhelmingly clear to me that together, the US and the Philippines are succeeding in accomplishing the twin goals that our two Presidents had set since they took office on the same day in January 2001: revitalizing the [RP-US] relationship and carrying it to real maturity," he added.

Ricciardone also said the two countries were getting away from the "old patron-client" relationship, which he described as "discredited and unhelpful to a partnership among equals."

"We matter to each other again. We are paying attention to each other, and we are cooperating on so many important shared interests, like protecting our peoples against international terrorism, and against other crimes including money laundering, corruption, theft of intellectual property and smuggling of drugs and of people," he said.

'Human potential'

In a speech he delivered later Wednesday, Ricciardone expressed optimism for Mindanao and emphasized the "human potential" of the island that he had visited the most number of times while serving as America's envoy to the country.

"With the help of the [AFP] and the Philippine National Police, I really am optimistic that in a few years, the Philippines in general, and Mindanao in particular, will no longer be seen as a focal point for conflict and terrorism, and poverty, but instead will be a success story," he said.

At the Focap forum, Ricciardone said the US Assistance for International Development (USAID) was providing more than $89 million in economic assistance to the Philippines this year, more than double the 2001 figures.

He said he would like to have seen more trade and investment happen between the two countries.

"That might have been something we could have done more of, and there's still a lot of headroom to grow our trade and investment, even though I'm delighted to see the Philippine trade expanding with everybody. I'd like to see a rising type of trade and investment strike across the board," he said.

At it again

But at the House, party-list representatives assailed Ricciardone for calling Cotabato a "doormat" for terrorists.

Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman and Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said the envoy should disclose his government's real intentions in Mindanao.

They noted that the US Embassy had earlier apologized—when chargé d'affaires Joseph Mussomelli described Mindanao as a "Mecca" for terrorists—but was at it again.

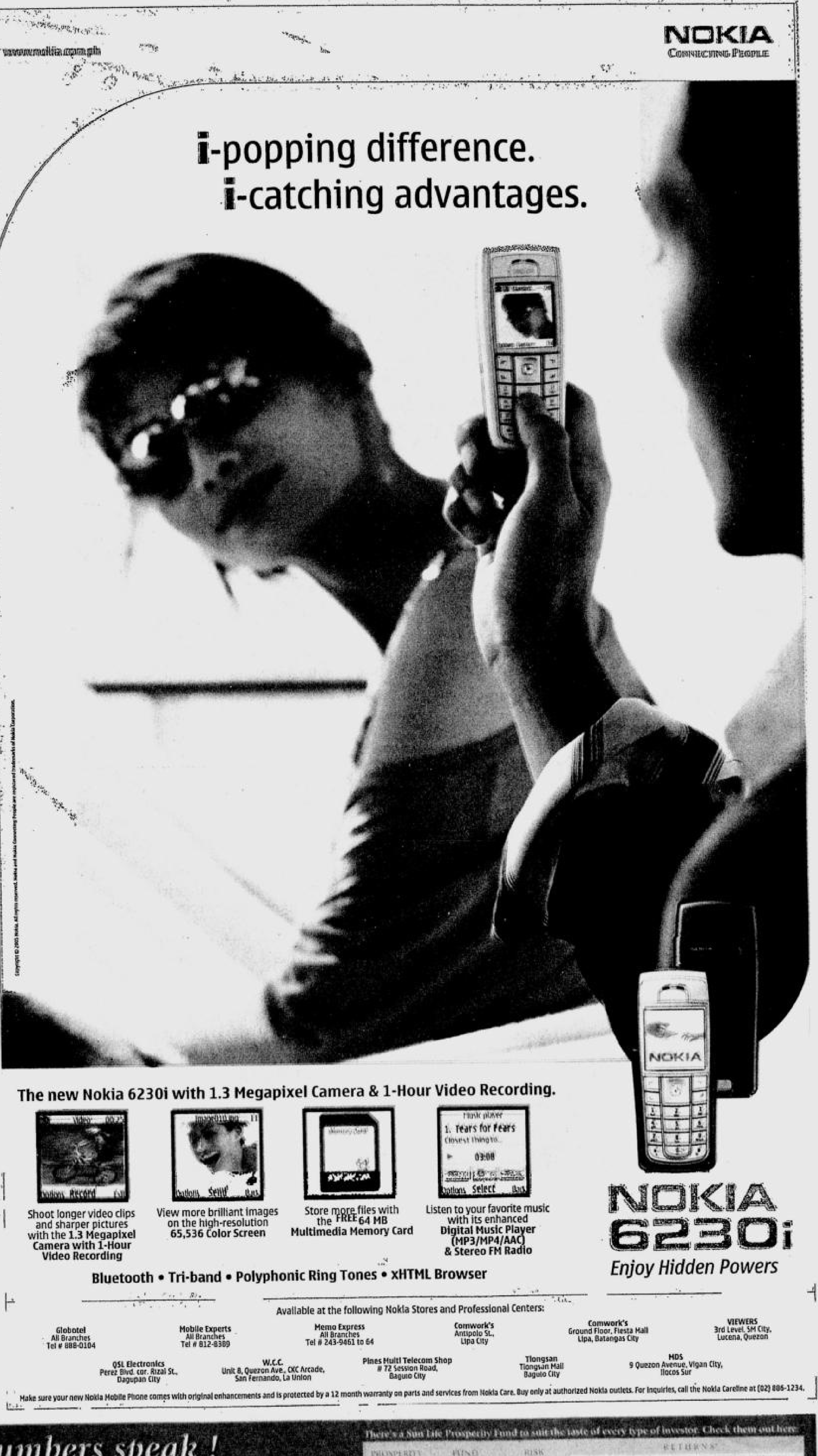
"The [Philippine] government should file a formal protest for this," Hataman said. "It was a very undiplomatic statement ... It was very unfair for Mindanao, particularly for Cotabato."

Hataman said the Americans might be continuing their disparaging statements because they wanted more RP-US military exercises in Mindanao.

For Virador, Ricciardone's statement was "no more than a tall tale to justify further armed intervention."

"With the terrorist agenda, the US can now substantially validate its self-proclaimed role as 'global cop.' However, this psywar tactic has cost many nations around the world their liberty and genuine democracy," Virador said.

He added: "We have the ability to police our own territory and we do not need to be repeatedly reminded of any fabricated terrorist activities in Mindanao, especially if the agenda is for the US to advance its economic and political interests." *With reports from Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Philip C. Tubeza in Manila*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Miriam hurls challenge but no one listens

From page A1

ple's Reform Party, told a hushed audience.

7-point agenda

Santiago's challenge fell on deaf ears, but a standing committee of the country's major political parties later adopted a seven-point agenda for the big summit of political parties on July 7-8.

The agenda included government system and governance; human capital development; land use, natural resources development and environment; income, jobs and wealth generation; food security; peace process with Moro and communist rebels; and fiscal and financial resources management.

Speaker Jose de Venecia of Lakas-NUCD, who organized the conference following calls by certain groups for Ms Arroyo's ouster, said the political parties would inform the President about the agenda "so adjustments can be made in the preparation of the 2006 budget."

Credibility is 1st problem

In her opening statement, however, Santiago noted that the country's political leaders had been engaged in "collective soul-searching" since the Republic was established in 1946 without producing results.

"Our first problem is credibility ... To address the problem of credibility, each one of us engaged in this conference should make a formal declaration that he will no longer engage in politics or run for public office after his term expires," she said.

"Otherwise, there's no point to this exercise," Santiago continued, saying the people had lost interest in what politicians do or say in the media.

The senator, known for acerbic comments, cited the need to educate "mindless voters" who look forward to entertainment-filled campaigns waged by politicians, among whom "there's a signal lack of scholarship."

Downsize AFP

Santiago proposed that the government downsize the military and purge corrupt, adventurist generals; that legislators advise Ms Arroyo to appoint only those below 40 years of age to her Cabinet because those above are perceived to be corrupt; and that Congress establish a National Policy Center to craft the country's policies.

"After 59 years of collective soul-searching, I don't want to add one minute more to this process. I really am suffering from a headache just thinking about these problems," she said, eliciting a polite applause from her fellow political leaders.

After delivering her scathing statement on the state of politics in the country, the senator walked out of the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel.

Reactions

Taguig Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano said that if all the leaders took up Santiago's challenge, this would leave no one to run the country except the clergy.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, sought to downplay what he described was Santiago's "extreme suggestion."

"But I don't think she really meant that literally. I think it was more to dramatize that politicians nowadays, must become more relevant to the people," Angara said.

Santiago's remarks notwithstanding, De Venecia hailed the adoption of a seven-point agenda by the conference as "an unprecedented cooperative effort of the country's major political parties and party-list groups."

Steering committee

A steering committee was created to draw up the program of a bigger summit in July.

De Venecia said that constitutional reforms, such as the shift to a parliamentary form and federal type of government, would be discussed in the July summit after the Senate and House committees on constitutional amendments had held joint public hearings on the issues.

The conference also urged Ms Arroyo to revive the government's peace talks with communist leaders.

Revive peace talks

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo offered to fly to Utrecht in the Netherlands to convince exiled communist leaders to reactivate peace negotiations with the government.

"This new intervention may be necessary," De Venecia said.

He said the conference also endorsed the grant of amnesty to military rebels involved in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

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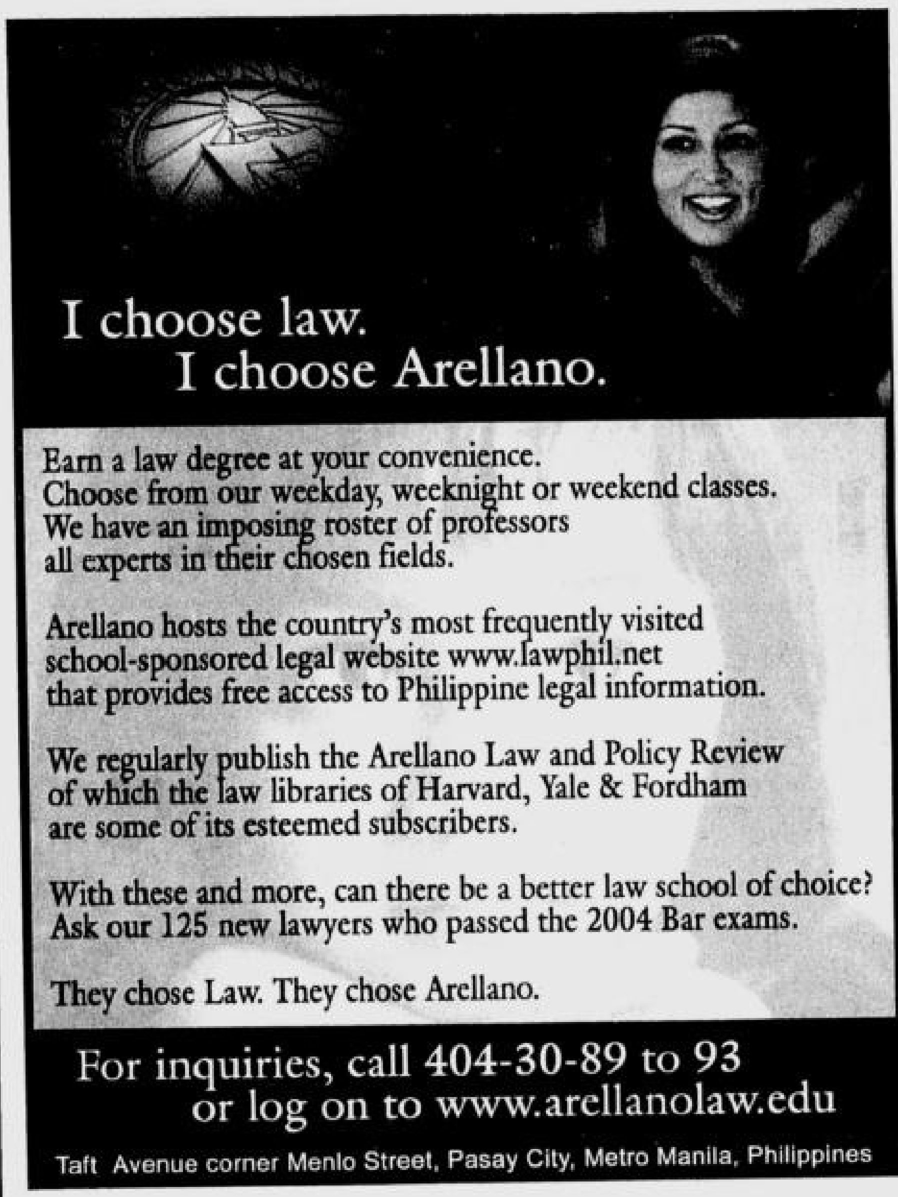

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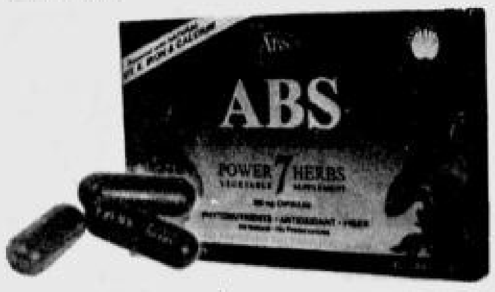

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COMING AND GOING

DOH men lament Dayrit exit, are wary of Duque

By Christian V. Esguerra

OFFICIALS and employees of the Department of Health are lamenting the departure of Secretary Manuel Dayrit, while at the same time remaining guarded about his successor, Dr. Francisco Duque III.

Not a few were convinced that Duque, president of Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), got the post because of his contribution to President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in last year's elections.

PhilHealth, under Duque, distributed at least four million health cards bearing Ms Arroyo's picture to poor Filipinos during the campaign.

One DOH employee yesterday said the "political accommodation" became obvious when Malacañang announced Duque's appointment the day after Dayrit formally announced his resignation at a press conference. Dayrit will step down on May 31.

"Doesn't the President always take a long time to appoint replacements?" the employee pointed out in an interview with the INQUIRER. "How come in Secretary Dayrit's case, she found a successor in just a day?"

Leaked?

There were also suspicions that Malacañang had intentionally leaked Dayrit's supposed resignation last April 5 to expedite his departure and force him to announce it sooner.

Dayrit was attending an international health conference in Cairo, Egypt, when another newspaper, citing anonymous sources, reported that he had resigned. One reason mentioned was his appointment to the World Health Organization Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.

At a press conference the day after he arrived in Manila, Dayrit denied that he was resigning to concentrate on the WHO job. Nor was he quitting to take care of his wife who had breast cancer but had long been cured.

Until yesterday, Dayrit refused to dignify suggestions that the President's political accommodation of Duque had cost him his job.

"He [Duque] was appointed by the President," he told reporters.

On Tuesday, Dayrit said the President "liked my performance" but she spoke of a new "vision" for her Cabinet when they talked on the phone in August 2003.

"Like in basketball, the owner has a vision for the team," Dayrit said in Filipino. "Even if you're a good player, as long as the owner wants to change the way he runs his team, he can always trade you."

DOH employees are preparing an emotional send-off for Dayrit on his last day in office on May 31. Duque will formally take his place the next day.

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Doc tells Erap 'bionic' knees OK

From page A1

fect his sex life.

Dr. Christopher Mow, a professor of orthopedic surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center and Estrada's knee surgeon, told reporters yesterday during a press conference at Club Filipino that the former President made inquiries whether he could still have sex after his knee-replacement surgery last December in Hong Kong.

Only natural

"The question came up during our discussion. It is only natural for patients, whether male or female, to be concerned for that is an important part of life and I told him he could return to his life three months after the surgery," Mow, who is based in California, said.

"As doctors, we can only tell our patients what to do," Mow said after some reporters asked him if the former President was still sexually active.

Out of danger

Mow, at the same time, said Estrada had recuperated well, although there was still some pain in his knees. He said he was monitoring Estrada's progress "to make sure that there are no major side effects."

"He is now out of danger," Mow added.

Mow also said Estrada's Tanay rest house where he's under virtual house arrest while facing multimillion-peso plunder and perjury charges filed by the government, is a very good location for his patient to recuperate.

"It is hilly and spacious. He could walk around and exercise a lot," Mow said, adding that he had just visited Estrada.

Doctor to VIPs

He also said that exercise equipment had been set up in one of the rooms of the estate.

Mow has done knee operations on wealthy Filipinos, among them Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co.'s Manny Pangilinan. He has been to the country twice.

THE GOOD news from Dr.Christopher Mow for his most infamous patient during a press conference at Club Filipino on Thursday. JOAN BONDOC

RECOVERING from knee replacement surgery early this year at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital, former President Estrada uses a walker to take a few steps. AP

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Defensor seeks ...

From page A1

due to a highly irregular deal for the government's engine replacement program (ERP).

No credibility

"The NRDC is a very powerful agency. *Baka mamaya makatagpo na naman tayo ng ganitong nilalang, mahirap na* (We might come upon such a creature again, tough luck) ... I don't know about his other companions, but Corpus has no credibility with me anymore. This is really psychotic," Defensor said in a press conference yesterday.

The DENR chief invited the media to listen to the tape of the NRDC board's March 14 meeting wherein Corpus allegedly moved for the approval of the NRDC's memorandum of agreement (MOA) with A.T. Intergrouppe Inc. and its partner, Italian firm Iveco, for the ERP.

'Corpus, not me'

Obviously still seething from Corpus' allegations against him, Defensor said the tape would prove that it was Corpus, and not he, who had sealed the MOA.

"So we move for the approval after fulfilling the conditions to wit: PERRC waiver, TIDCORP letter, the newspaper ad and the Fedjodap settlement," Corpus was saying on tape during the board meeting attended by the NRDC board.

PERRC refers to Philippine Engine Remanufacturing and Reconditioning Corp.; Fedjodap to the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines, and Tidcorp to Trade and Investment Development Corp. also known as the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency.

The NRDC entered into a MOA with PERRC and Fedjodap for the financing of the replacement diesel engines for passenger jeepneys.

Aging diesel engines had been identified as the single largest mobile source of air pollution in violation of the Clean Air Act.

The engine replacement program was to provide jeepney drivers with an alternative to an outright phaseout so as not to disrupt their means of livelihood.

But the ERP was discontinued due to NRDC's lack of funds.

Last year, A.T. Intergrouppe Inc. (ATI) made a proposal to take over the financing of ERP in partnership with Iveco, reportedly Europe's largest engine manufacturer.

Early this year, ATI's proposal contained in a new MOA was approved by the NRDC board chaired by Corpus.

'Overpriced 4 times'

According to the Corpus camp, Corpus reviewed the deal and found the engines were "overpriced four times."

Defensor said that as chair, Corpus should not even be the movant to approve anything because his job as chair was to preside.

The MOA was approved, with conditions, during that meeting and not in February as the NRDC earlier announced, NRDC president Angelico Salud said.

A copy of the excerpts from the March 14 board meeting also revealed that the NRDC had already spent P1.5 million for the ERP under its old agreement with the Fedjodap and PERRC.

The NRDC is now trying to recoup the P1.5 million as only three reconditioned engines were sold to jeepney drivers under the old agreement.

Review

Defensor said he would review the MOA when he assumes chairmanship of the board and discuss the details with the other board members.

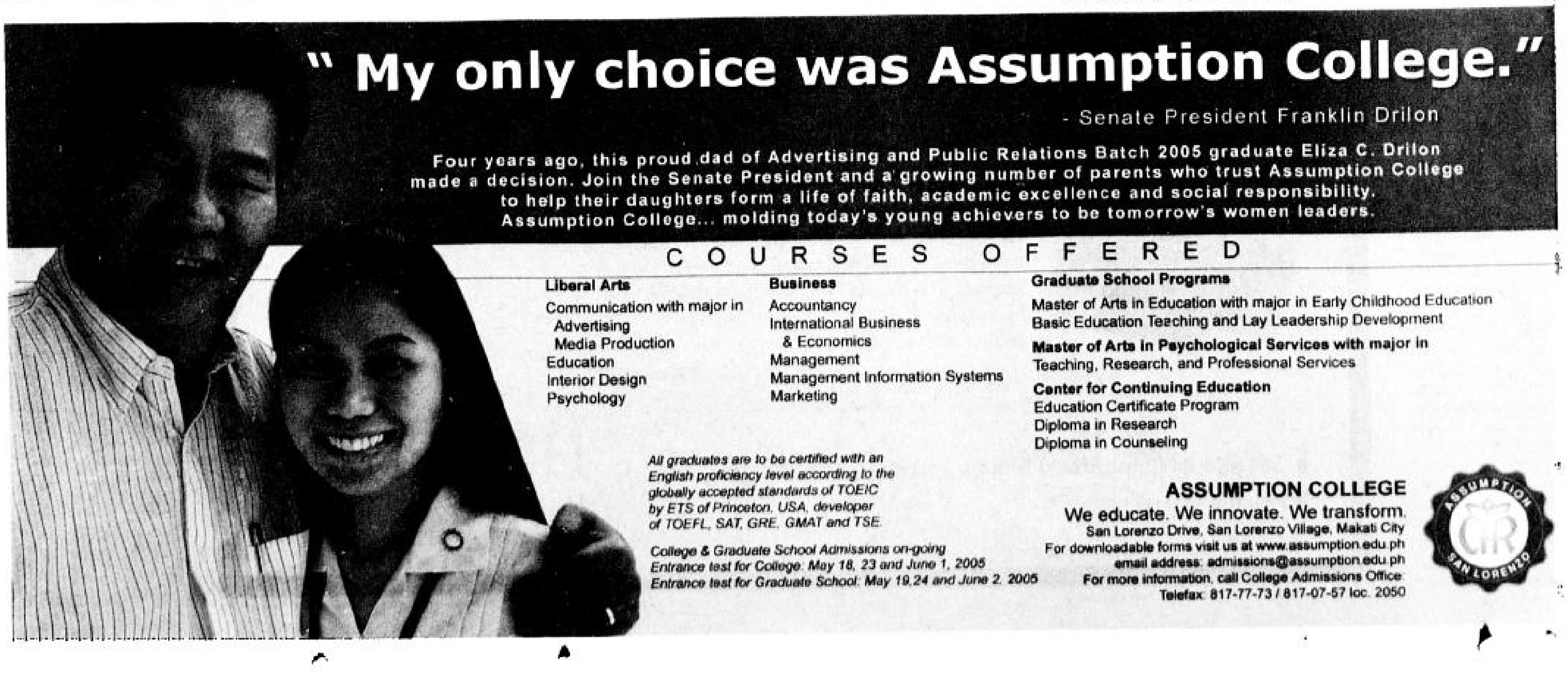
He said even Corpus should come out and "say his piece" on the matter when the MOA is reviewed.

While he still sits as a board member of NRDC, Defensor said he could not assume the NRDC chairmanship until the President issues an executive order that will effectively revoke her earlier order appointing Corpus as alternate officio chair of the NRDC.

The DENR Secretary is automatically chair of the NRDC board, but Corpus was appointed alternate chair of the NRDC last December after the President also tasked him to head the country's reforestation efforts.

"While I was not chair, I did not meddle. I didn't know what was happening there. I was not involved in the day-to-day things. But when I'm chair, I'll know my responsibilities," Defensor said.

Blanche Rivera



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UK, French officials linked to oil scandal

LONDON—A controversial British lawmaker named by a US Congress panel as receiving huge sums from oil trade under former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime angrily rejected the charges Thursday as "a big lie."

George Galloway, who set up his own left-wing Respect party after being expelled from the Labour Party of Prime Minister Tony Blair over the Iraq war, won massive libel damages from a British newspaper last year after it made similar allegations.

"This is a very old allegation. It's the allegation that led the Daily Telegraph to spectacular defeat in the libel courts," Galloway told BBC radio.

A probe by the Permanent Senate Subcommittee on Investigations said earlier Thursday it had evidence that Iraq gave Galloway 20 million barrels of oil in allocations under the Saddam-era UN Oil-for-Food program.

The committee said Charles Pasqua, a conservative former French interior minister also received 11 million barrels.

GALLOWAY campaigning in east London on polling day May 5. AFP

Galloway called the investigation "a very peculiar kind of committee," saying its members had not contacted him, even when he repeatedly requested a hearing.

Asked why he had been named, Galloway, 50, claimed he was being targeted for opposing the Iraq war.

"This is George (W.) Bush's Republican Party committee seeking to smear those who stood against their policy on war with Iraq and who have been proved right," he said.

Galloway was a persistent critic of UN sanctions against Saddam as well as the US-led, British-backed war of March 2003 to unseat him.

In 1994, he was filmed during a visit to Baghdad telling Saddam: "I salute your courage, your strength, your indefatigability." However, Galloway has insisted he was referring to the Iraqi people and that he despised the regime.

Galloway was kicked out of Labour for his vehement opposition to the Iraq war, but got his revenge on Blair by scoring a major upset in last week's British general election.

Galloway unseated Oona King, a Blair loyalist who backed the war, winning her east London seat by appealing to the area's large Muslim population, many of whom were unhappy at the conflict.

Their electoral battle was perhaps the most bitter of the whole election, with King, who is half-Jewish, accusing Respect activists of spreading word of her ethnic background to hurt her chances, a charge Galloway's officials vehemently denied. *AFP*

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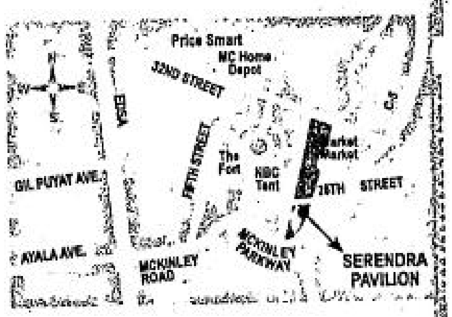

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White House, US Capitol emptied as plane breaches restricted area

WASHINGTON—Fighter jets scrambled over Washington on Wednesday when a plane breached restricted air space prompting the evacuation of the White House and the US Congress amid fears of a Sept. 11-style attack, but the president was not told until he finished a bicycle ride.

The light private Cessna had ignored calls from air traffic controllers and entered the restricted air zone around Washington, coming within 5 km of the White House before turning away, authorities said.

Fighter jets

The plane's approach sent two F-16 fighter jets into the air over the US capital and thousands of staff and tourists into the streets outside the White House, Capitol building and Supreme Court in an urgent evacuation.

The US Customs service also scrambled Black Hawk helicopters during the alert, which the White House characterized as the most serious since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by hijacked airliners on New York and Washington.

But President George W. Bush was on a bicycle ride at a suburban wildlife preserve in nearby Maryland at the time and was not told about the crisis until the end of his bike ride and some 40 minutes after the "all-clear" was given.

Vice President Dick Cheney who was at the White House at the time was quickly evacuated, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was told about the incident just before noon, around the time it happened.

Accidental

Homeland Security Department officials said the Secret Service determined the air intrusion appeared to be accidental and no charges would be filed against the two men on board.

First lady Laura Bush and former first lady Nancy Reagan, who was visiting, were rushed to a secure location on the White House grounds, McClellan said.

"A determination was made that the threat posed no danger to the president since he was at an off-site location, and protocols were in place to protect people in the area of the threat," McClellan said. "Those protocols did not require any presidential authority."

"Given such circumstances and the fact that the plane turned away from the White House, the decision was made to inform the president upon conclusion of his bike ride," McClellan added.

The two fighters, which scrambled from nearby Andrews Air Force base, intercepted the Cessna and fired four flares to get the pilot's attention before escorting the plane to nearby Frederick, Maryland, officials said. *Reuters*

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US envoy confirms N. Korea A-bomb test in the works as tensions heighten

SEOUL—A US envoy confirmed Wednesday that North Korea had begun preparations for a nuclear test as the Stalinist state claimed it had taken a key step toward the manufacture of more atomic bombs.

North Korea is believed to have as many as eight nuclear weapons according to some estimates but has never tested one so far.

US Ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer, confirming media speculation from the United States, said that could soon change.

"I believe they have taken some preparatory steps," the newly appointed envoy was quoted as saying in Tokyo at a meeting with a Japanese ruling coalition leader.

Schieffer is the first US official to go on record as saying that a nuclear test could be in the works, after unnamed officials were quoted in the New York Times last week.

According to satellite and other intelligence data those officials believe Pyongyang is building a reviewing stand and filling in a tunnel, clear pointers to a potential underground nuclear test.

Schieffer believed there was a "high possibility" of a nuclear test, according to a Japanese official.

South Korean officials have been skeptical about the reports that North Korea was preparing a test at Kilju, in northeastern North Korea, where satellite images show the suspected tunnel.

US and South Korean intelligence agencies have been watching the tunnel since the late 1990s and officials in Seoul said as recently as Wednesday that they had neither detected signs nor received intelligence from the United States that would indicate test preparations.

In a separate development Wednesday, North Korea said that it had completed unloading 8,000 spent fuel rods from its nuclear reactor, a step that would allow it to reprocess enough plutonium for about half a dozen bombs.

North Korea shut down the reactor last month, allowing it to unload the spent fuel and remove it for reprocessing.

"The relevant field of the DPRK (North Korea) has successfully finished the unloading of 8,000 spent fuel rods from the 5MW (megawatt) pilot nuclear plant in the shortest period recently," a foreign ministry spokesperson was quoted as saying by the official Korean Central News Agency. *AFP*

Grenade at Bush rally 'not armed'

TBILISI—Georgian and US security officials launched an investigation Wednesday after a hand-grenade was found near the open-air stage where US President George W. Bush and Georgian counterpart Mikhail Saakashvili made speeches to a huge crowd in Tbilisi.

The grenade was found 50 meters from the podium in Tbilisi's Freedom Square where Bush addressed some 120,000 people on Tuesday, said Gela Bezhuashvili, secretary of Georgia's national security council.

US security officials said the grenade had been thrown, but Bezhuashvili denied this and underlined that the device was not even ready to explode.

Bezhuashvili said the grenade was found while Bush was on Freedom Square, but said: "There was no threat to the presidents."

"The grenade was not in the armed position," he said, adding that the device was an "engineering" model, which provokes a blast but does not spread shrapnel, making it less dangerous than offensive grenades.

Georgian officials downplayed the incident, suggesting that it had been a stunt, not part of any plan to attack Bush, who was on the first visit to the ex-Soviet republic by a US president.

"The aim was to scare people to get media attention," Bezhuashvili said.

"This was not an assassination attempt, the grenade was planted," stressed Vano Noniashvili, a spokesperson for the Georgian presidency.

Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili described the incident as an attempt to create "disorder and panic, as well as discrediting Georgia's image." *AFP*

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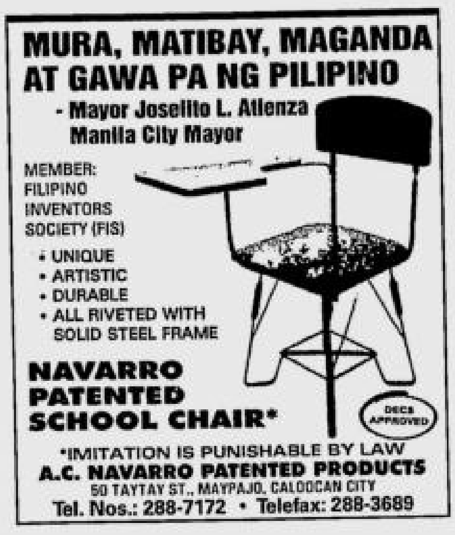
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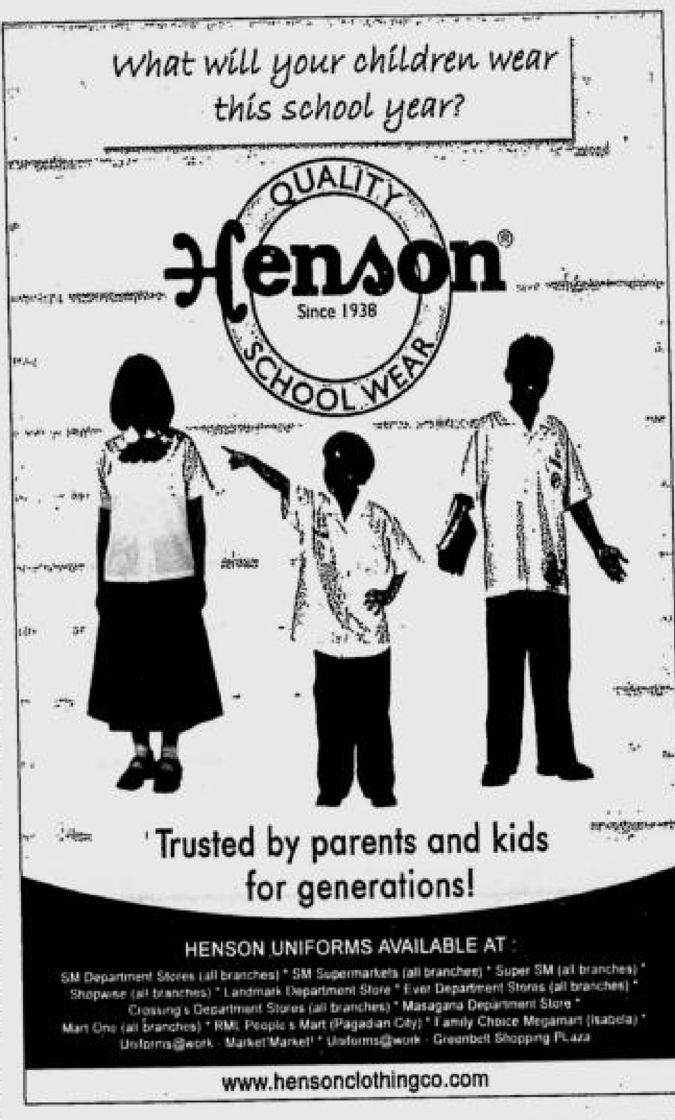
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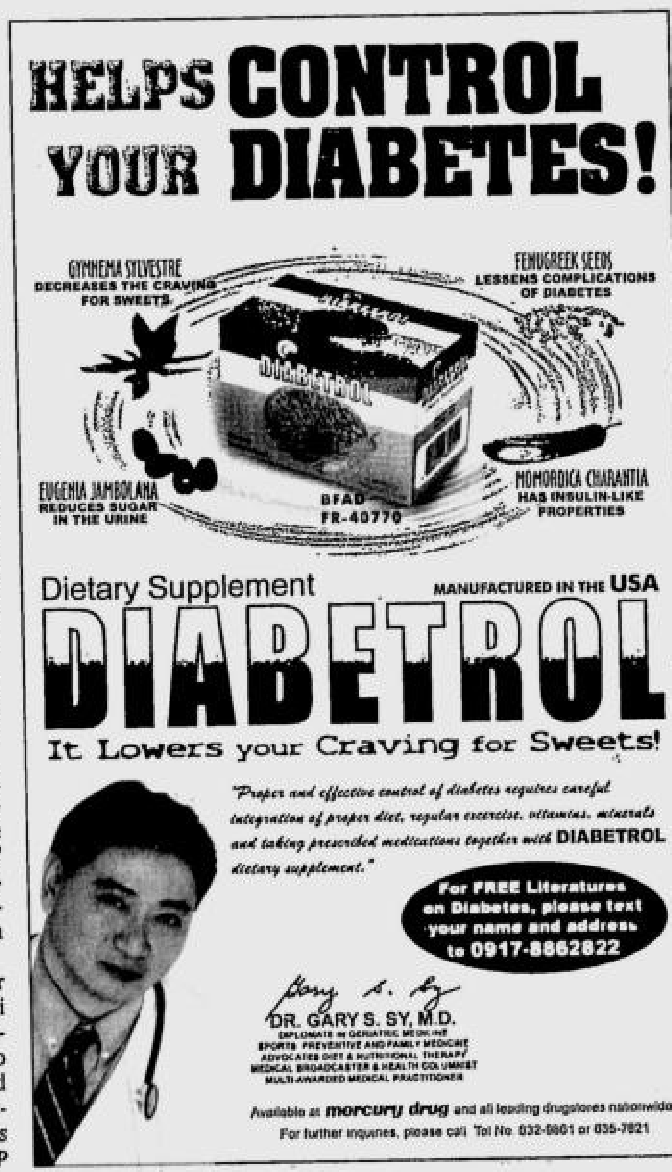
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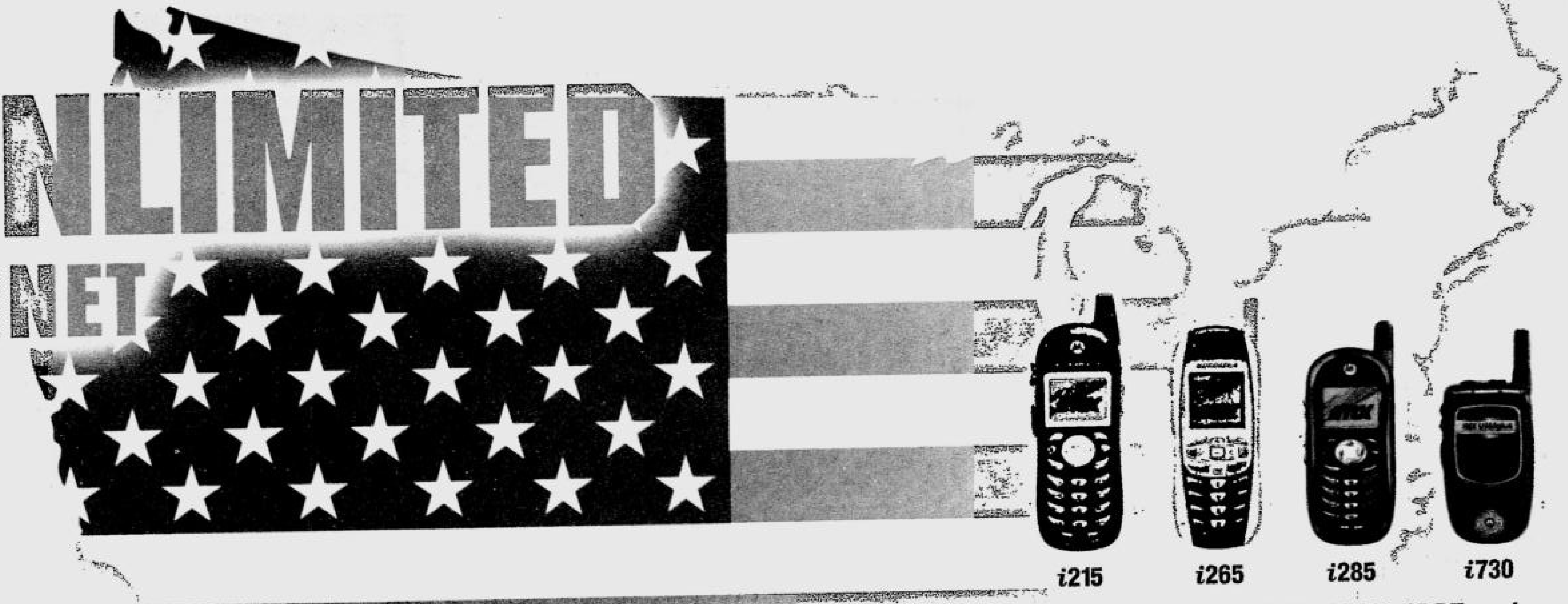

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2 GIs, 6 Iraqis killed in new rebel attacks

BAGHDAD—Two US Marines were killed and 14 wounded when an explosive device hit their troop transport vehicle during a large American offensive being fought against suspected insurgents in western Iraq, the military said Thursday. In Baghdad, militants exploded a car bomb in a market, killing six people, police said.

During the fifth day of Operation Matador near the Syrian border, hundreds of American troops in tanks and light armored vehicles continued to roll through desert outposts in search of followers of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of the al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist group, the US military said.

Residents in the villages of Karabilah and Saadah reported heavy bombardments by US artillery or warplanes at 7 a.m. Thursday following what they believed was fighting in the area.

On Wednesday night, a US Assault Amphibian Vehicle struck an explosive device 7 kilometers east of the town of Husaybah, killing two Marines and wounding 14, American military spokesperson Capt. Jeffrey Pool said Thursday.

Earlier in the offensive, which began late Saturday night, at least three Marines were reported killed and 20 wounded. It is one of the biggest US military operations in Iraq since Fallujah was taken from militants six months ago.

As many as 100 insurgents were killed in the first 48 hours of the offensive when US forces clashed with well-organized and well-equipped fighters in Obeidi, 322 kilometers west of Baghdad, the US military said.

Meanwhile, attacks by insurgents continued in other areas of Iraq, following a wave of bombs and gunfire that killed at least 69 people and wounded 160 Wednesday—pushing the death toll from insurgent violence to more than 400 in less than two weeks.

On Thursday, more attacks by insurgents occurred.

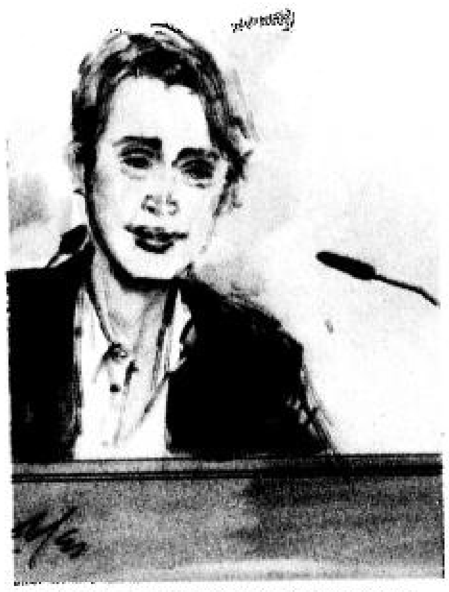
A car bomb exploded near a market in eastern Baghdad, killing at least six people and wounding 13, said police 1st Lt. Mazin Saeed. The blast also set some shops on fire in the New Baghdad area of the capital and destroyed 10 cars parked nearby, he said.

In two other areas of Baghdad, suspected insurgents shot and killed Brig. Gen. Iyad Imad Mahdi as he drove to work the Ministry of Defense and Col. Fadhil Muhammed Mobarak as he traveled to the Interior Ministry, where he led its police control room, police said.

Two car bombs also exploded in the northern city of Kirkuk, which is 290 kilometers north of Baghdad, police said.

One blast occurred near a Shiite mosque, killing two people and wounding two, said police Capt. Sarhad Talabani.

The other car bomb exploded at a site where explosives experts were dismantling a roadside bomb that residents had found, said police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qader. Two of the experts were wounded by the blast, which also destroyed nearby vehicles, Qader said. *AP*



ACTOR Macaulay Culkin in this courtroom sketch testified that he was never molested by Michael Jackson in the pop star's child abuse trial in Santa Maria, Calif., May 11. AP

'Home Alone' star denies being molested by Jacko

SANTA MARIA, California—"Home Alone" star Macaulay Culkin Wednesday denied Michael Jackson ever fondled him and said he never saw him molest any other boys, but admitted sharing the singer's bed in his early teens.

Jurors also heard Jackson himself talk of his innocent love of children, in an interview taped two years ago, which court-watchers say could be as close as the court will get to hearing testimony from the "King of Pop." Jackson described himself as "childlike," a portrayal echoed by Culkin, a 24-year-old actor best known for his role as the child hero of the "Home Alone" movie.

Culkin acknowledged that he often slept in Jackson's bed during regular visits he made to the star's Neverland Ranch between the ages of 10 and 14.

However, he dismissed allegations that he had been fondled by Jackson as "absolutely ridiculous."

Last month, a former chef at Jackson's Neverland Ranch testified that he had seen Jackson with his hand inside Culkin's shorts in 1991.

Asked by lead defense attorney Thomas Mesereau if he had ever been molested by Jackson, Culkin replied: "Never."

"I've never seen him do anything improper with anybody," he added.

Culkin was the third person called in Jackson's defense to deny allegations that he had molested them as young boys in the 1990s.

He was also the first big name to take the stand for Jackson. The defense has submitted a star-studded list of potential witnesses, which includes the likes of Stevie Wonder and Elizabeth Taylor.

Culkin, who appeared relaxed and confident, testified that he would be so exhausted after playing around the fantasy-themed Neverland Ranch all day that he would just flop somewhere in Jackson's bedroom in the evening.

However, he bridled at prosecutor Ron Zonen's suggestion that Jackson may have molested him without his knowledge while he was sound asleep.

"I find that unlikely," he said. "I think I'd realize if something like that would happen." Prosecutors have brought up the molestation claims dating back more than a decade in a bid to convince jurors that Jackson has a history of sexually abusing young boys.

Jackson, 46, has insisted his love of children, and the sleepovers, are pure and innocent. *AFP*

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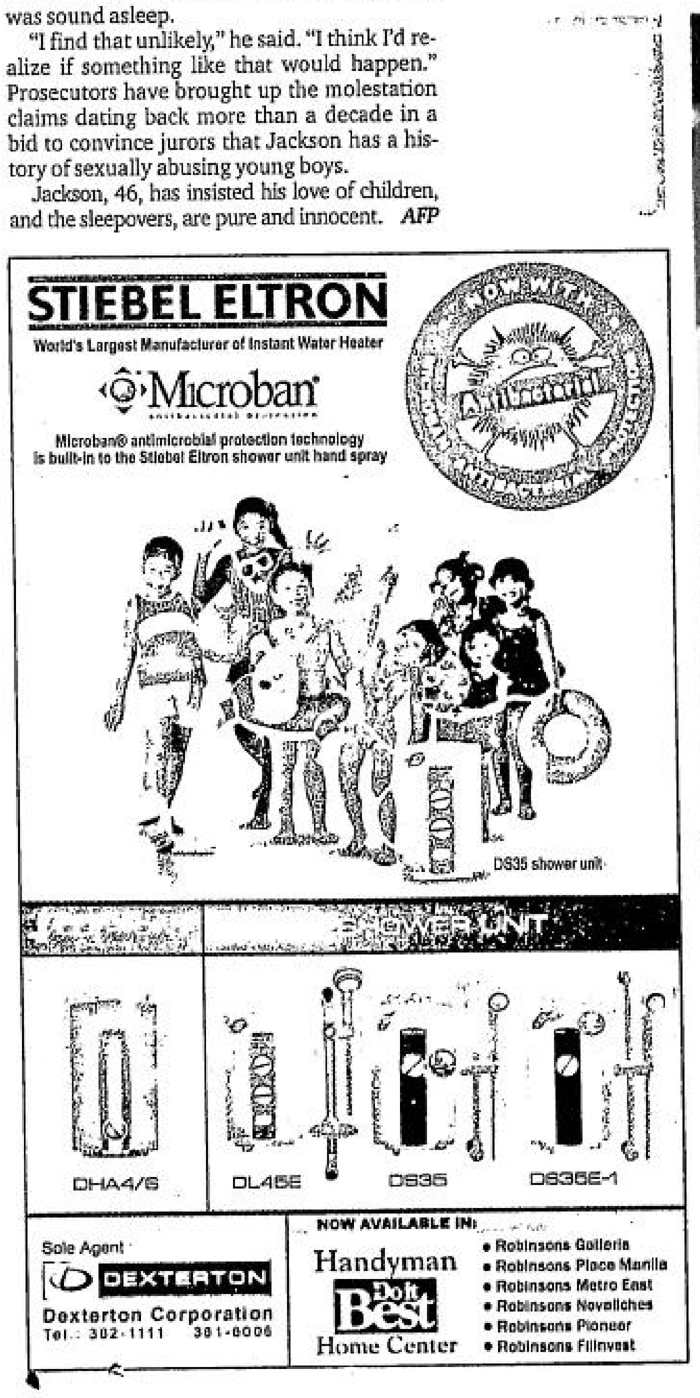

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ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 154

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Open season

EDITORIAL

PHILIP Agustin, publisher-editor of Starline Times Recorder, was shot dead in Dingalan, Aurora, late Tuesday evening as he was about to sit down for dinner in his daughter's house. His family suspects that Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde, a retired policeman, knows something about it. Ylarde was reportedly unhappy with the stories published in the Recorder about alleged missing calamity funds, relief goods and logs, the construction of a cockpit using materials from the town's slaughterhouse and the slow resettlement program for more than 1,000 families displaced by the landslides in November and December last year.

Ylarde has said that he was actually planning to sue Agustin for libel and virtuously called for an investigation. President Macapagal-Arroyo has also called for an investigation and directed Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to go after the murderers of journalists in the same manner that he went after kidnappers. In addition, the President and Speaker Jose de Venecia have put up a P5-million bounty to help hasten the solution of media murders.

Agustin is the sixth journalist to die in five months. After steady pressure from the public and the press, all the government can do is to vow more "action." But offering bounties and telling people to do something don't erase the harsh reality facing this country: it's open season on journalists.

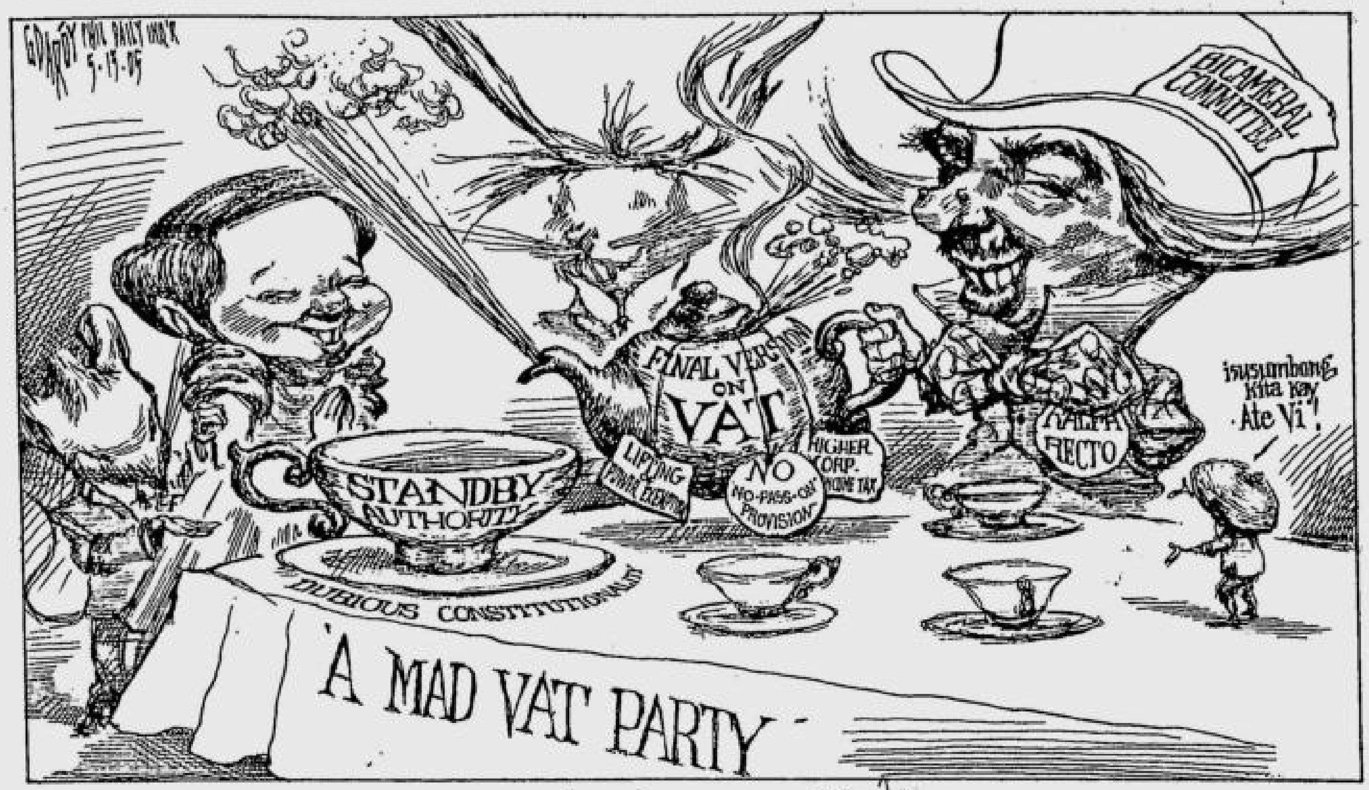
But even as an increasing number of journalists have found themselves forced to dodge bullets (quite often unsuccessfully), politicians and some media people are dodging the issue by putting forward some hare-brained schemes. Raul Antupuesto, provincial chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas in Davao Oriental, suggests that journalists appeal to the New People's Army for protection. "If you ask security assistance [from the police] you are like a fool," he says. "The security escorts they will provide will kill you." So he proposes that journalists turn to the rebels for protection. Apparently he was unaware of the fact that Aurora is heavily infested with communist rebels, who haven't done anything to assist journalists. Or does Antupuesto simply think that the NPA is a better-organized armed force than the goons politicians have at their beck and call?

Politicians such as Representatives Felix Alfelor Jr., Roseller Barinaga and Gerry Salappudin aren't much better. Alfelor suggests that it might help to tighten libel laws, obviously believing that threatening journalists with stiffer penalties would make them shut up and thus keep them from offending some public officials' tender sensibilities. If journalists can be hushed by new laws, his thinking goes, the problem will simply disappear.

And in a Tweedledum and Twiddledee interpellation in the House, Barinaga and Salappudin declared that the corruption of some journalists is one reason they are being killed. The obvious implication is that those who died deserved to be killed. Since when has it become the job of lawmakers to offer mitigating justifications for those committing murder?

None of these suggestions is helpful or relevant. An epidemic of murders does not justify the silencing of potential victims, or speculations as to the possible poetic justice in the choice of some of the victims. The simple truth is, as INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros has pointed out, that the writ of the law has evaporated outside Metro Manila. Journalists in the provinces are fair game. Each murder that takes place emboldens onion-skinned officials and the goons they command. Each murder that remains unsolved, each killing that doesn't result in the apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators guarantees even more murders.

The law only recognizes killing in self defense. Nothing a journalist can do, short of pointing a gun at another citizen, can justify killing a journalist. If the law is not as stringent about libel as some congressmen may want, this is because it is better for the law to be generous in providing for freedom of the press than for the suppression of initiative among genuine journalists. If the police and the politicians are incompetent and disinterested in doing their duty, the solution lies in voting politicians out of office and firing, and charging, policemen who won't do their duty. Mass murder—for that is what is being committed against journalists—does not justify fielding goons to fight goons or protecting potential victims by seeking the help of cold-blooded killers from rebel groups.



'Counterfeit' medicines are not fake

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

TWO related stories on medicines that appeared in newspapers early this week need further clarification. One was false, the other true.

The first was a press release quoting the World Health Organization that imported medicines are "fake." The second was the statement of a world renowned nutritionist that alternative medicines, such as herbals, may be doing more harm than good, and can even result in death. Let's look into these assertions more closely.

The propaganda campaign against medicine imports is obviously aimed at the parallel importations of the Philippine government itself through the Philippine International Trading Center. The Arroyo administration began to import medicines because of the high cost of medicines manufactured here by the cartel of multinational pharmaceutical companies. Medicines from India, Pakistan and Vietnam are much cheaper, sometimes up to 100 times cheaper, than those sold here by multinationals.

Obviously, although the PITC's parallel imports is still minuscule (the PITC has a budget of only P500 million for medicine imports whereas the whole Philippine pharmaceuticals sales is P92 billion), the multinationals are already feeling the competition or are afraid the government's imports will eventually eat into their huge market share. So the cartel is waging a propaganda campaign to discredit them.

And the WHO, an agency of the United Nations, is either a willing accomplice or is being unwittingly used by the cartel. In short, the multinationals and the WHO, which are operating here as guests of the Philippine government, are sabotaging the efforts of their host to help its constituents.

The WHO has defined all medicines sold in a country but not manufactured there as "counterfeit." Never mind if they are the same medicines manufactured by a sister company in another country, has the same brand, the same ingredients and strength—in other words, identical with those being protected—they are labeled as "counterfeit."

Unfortunately, "counterfeit" in the Philippines is confused with "fake" or "bogus" ("counterfeit" bills are also called "fake" and "bogus" bills). The pharmaceutical cartel is using this confusion to fool the public into believing that the PITC imports are "fake." In fact, even reporters, who should know better, have been fooled. In their stories, they interchange the words "counterfeit" and "fake" as if they have the same meanings.

Wrong. The PITC's imports are the same as their counterpart medicines manufactured here. They have the same ingredients, the same formulations, the same brands as their counterparts here, manufactured by the sister companies of the multinationals here. They are genuine. The only difference is that they are much much cheaper.

What I don't understand is why the PITC is not defending its own products. It has been very quiet in the face of the propaganda against it. No press releases, no advertisements declaring that their imports are genuine, no list of their medicines and their prices compared with their counterparts manufactured here. Why? If you don't dispute the claims of the multinationals, the public will begin believing them even if they are false.

* * *

On the other subject, alternative medicines, particularly the herbals, you have seen the proliferation of advertisements, billboards and commercials using doctors and prominent personalities to endorse the wonders of this or that herbal medicine. If we believe these advertisements, the herbals are miracle cures for almost anything, including the deadly ones like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, etc. In other words, they are like the "snake oil" of old.

Some of them even resort to deception. Those touting the effectiveness of ampalaya extracts against diabetes advertise supposed "scientific" findings validating their efficacy. This is misleading. That test was very limited and does not validate the medicinal claims.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs and the Department of Health should inform the public on the truth but sadly they are remiss in their duties.

The BFAD claims the herbals are not medicines but food supplements and therefore are beyond their authority. The herbals are becoming popular because of the high cost of medicines. But the herbal pills which one has to take several times a day end up being more expensive than the regular medicines.

But the most dangerous part is that while some herbs may really have some medicinal properties, they also contain many other ingredients that may be toxic. Mahogany seeds used to be very popular in lowering high blood pressure until some of those taking them began dropping dead. It turned out that mahogany seeds contain toxic substances. The same may be true of other popular herbal medicines.

Anecdotal stories about cures achieved by this or that herbal cannot be trusted as the absolute truth. Many of these supposed "cures" are merely psychological. The patients feel better because they want to believe in the herbal medicine, but not because it is really curing them.

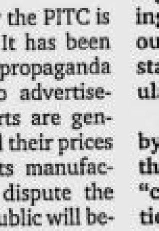
The worst part is that these patients, because they believe in the herbals, don't go to doctors until it is too late. That is the deadliest part of alternative medicine.

* * *

Journalists are invited to a concert at 8 o'clock tonight at the Front Page of Filipino-British singer Marri Nallos who will launch her latest album "Destiny." With her will be celebrity guests who will jam with her and her band.

'The power of the glance'

Passion for Reason



Raul C. Pangalangan

"BLINK: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" has been on the New York Times list of best sellers for 16 weeks, and currently ranks second. Author Malcolm Gladwell, who wrote the earlier global chart-buster, "The Tipping Point," says that snap judgments "can be every bit as good as decisions made cautiously and deliberately"—we block out the irrelevant and reduce a complex situation to what he calls a "thin slice" of reality. "[T]here can be as much value in the blink of an eye as in months of rational analysis." The whole book is about "the first two seconds" after intuition kicks in.

Brilliant generals were known to possess "the power of the glance," or *coup d'oeil*, the ability to make sense of the battlefield. Basketball players are said to have "court sense."

Gladwell explains that the "only way that [we] could ever have survived as a species…is that we've developed another kind of decision-making apparatus that's capable of making very quick judgments based on very little information. [This] adaptive unconscious does an excellent job of sizing up the world, warning people of danger … and initiating action in a sophisticated and efficient manner." Yet, he continues, we are "innately suspicious" of snap judgments and assume that the more information, the more time spent thinking, the better the decision. "Don't judge a book by its cover," or its more familiar Pinoy version, "Don't judge my brother, he's not a book!"

"Thin slicing" is about "finding patterns … based on very narrow slices of experience." Gladwell cites interesting examples. One study showed that student evaluations of their teachers made at the end of the semester did not differ from ratings they made after viewing a mere 10-second video without sound! Another study predicted doctors' risks of being sued for malpractice based on clips of their conversations with parents, and concluded that it had all to do with bedside manners because patients "just don't sue doctors they like."

He says that we can, in fact, foster the power of the Blink. An example close to the Pinoy heart is basketball, "an intricate, high-speed game filled with split-second, spontaneous decisions," but which are made possible only through hours of structured practice and assigned roles for the players. That, he says, is the true advantage of training and experience: we "extract an enormous amount of meaningful information from the very thinnest slice" of the situation. "Spontaneity isn't random."

He warns of the "perils of introspection" when we blunt our intuition by thinking. We "lose the flow" and "let the guys in the white lab coats take over." The "Coke Classic" was re-formulated to meet "The Pepsi Challenge," and the experts produced the now forgotten "New Coke." The experts tinkered with the taste, but real people chose on the basis of brand imagery. The experts likewise called the Aeron chair a "monstrosity"—until the market embraced the Herman Miller classic with gusto as the model of the new stripped-down aesthetic.

But Gladwell warns that our instincts can betray us, and our intuition is fallible. He cites the example of a woman trombone player who was rejected by many European orchestras. Yet when, by chance, the candidates were asked to play behind a screen, the jurors discovered to their horror that the winner was a woman! Until then, the jurors had listened with deep-set biases that certain kinds of music and instruments were meant for men, but it took the simple device of a screen to make them listen with just their ears and, I suppose, their justest of hearts.

Auditions for musicians are "classic thin-slicing moments." The author concludes: "[The] screen created a pure Blink moment."

Filipinos may consider Blink to be completely unnecessary. After all, aren't we a republic of the *bahala na*, where *tsambahan* and *abilidad* reign supreme? The irony is this: If instead our government bureaucrats read a book entitled "Think," first we must assume that they have enough to think with.

However even if they read "Blink," that is no guarantee that they will follow their gutsense. After all, bureaucrats resort to endless paperwork, less to ensure that they decide wisely, and more to play safe and find someone to blame should anything go wrong. Why? Because our laws are programmed to punish even good-faith mistakes by government officials. The post-Edsa I legal order assumed that excessive checks and balances were the antidote to corruption. Antidote, yes—to innovative thinking, to daring reforms, to creative experimentation. But to corruption? No, they only guarantee that more people take part in corruption because it is easier for 20 signatories on a voucher to sign without feeling guilty.

Also, in a land where the "power of the glance" is inevitably misconstrued as the power of the *masama ang tingin*, or the macho game of *titigan*, "Blink" must be read by every champion of equal protection of the laws. Our instincts betray us when we allow ourselves to be manipulated by those who play the game of first impressions: the suave, English-speaking, properly accented smooth-talkers, the intellectual gigolos of our wretched times. Perhaps that is why the plain-looking, public school-sounding, and native Pinoy-looking exalt in blind-graded board exams—perhaps unsaid but truly felt: ah, finally, an exam where I can fight without that baggage. As Austin Powers nicely put it, "Yeah, baby, yeah." Stare them down and make them blink.

VAT, a test of GMA's political capacity

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has hailed the passage of the Value Added Tax bill—after an odyssey in the treacherous reefs of the congressional bicameral committee—as the "capstone of the first phase of my economic reform agenda," bringing the country "one step closer to economic stability."

The approval of the bill, which clears the way for its signing into law, broke several weeks of stalemate that nearly strangled the centerpiece of GMA's tax reform package. The approval pushes her administration to a new stage of tests of her political capacity to get what she wants. She did not emerge with flying colors from the legislative stand-off, and although her coalition in Congress had the numbers in both houses, it failed to deliver the bill she wanted—the one which sought to raise the VAT to 12 percent, with a minimum of exemptions.

Instead, the bicameral committee gave her a compromise bill that was half of the cake she wanted, authorizing her to raise the VAT rate next year to 12 percent from 10 percent, with the caveat that the rate may be raised, if VAT collection exceeds 2.8 percent of gross domestic product or if the budget gap exceeds 1.5 percent of the GDP. This condition ties her hand and she has to make do with these handicaps.

That she failed to use her numbers in Congress to muster support for her original objectives and that it took almost three months to prise out the bill from the Senate speak volumes of her weak political capacity to get things done. The business community, in general, felt relief that at last the bill had come to a decision in the bicameral process, although it emerged riddled with amendments and compromises. It is relieved to know that although the VAT bill also contained provisions raising corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent, the government's tax program has now a point of reference—at least, for the next two years—a situation that helps clear up uncertainty.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the increase in corporate income tax is "uncalled for" and is "sending a wrong signal." "We are already overtaxed," it added.

The chamber, however, agreed with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the VAT bill will help the government cut its debts and the budget deficit.

The federation went further to say the bill would improve investor confidence. It looked at the approval of the bill from another perspective, saying that it "shows we are serious in finding solutions to our problems."

What does not inspire confidence in the political capacity of the administration is that the President failed to build a coalition behind a tax reform program critical to averting a fiscal deficit crisis. Not even from the majorities won by her political alliance in the May 2004 election.

The compromise bill was ratified by the Senate with a slim margin of 13 votes out of 24 senators, some of whom crossed over from the opposition side to vote for the bill—including Sen. Edgardo Angara. And the bill did not get the solid support of administration senators. Sen. Joker Arroyo voted with opposition senators against the bill.

The bill that was finally approved by the two chambers set up the President for an electoral trap—the provision that gave her the authority to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent in 2006. This provision puts her on the frontline of a possible backlash from the effects of higher taxes on the public. This authority puts to test her political will to bite the bullet and take responsibility for the tax reform.

The President has indicated she would bite the bullet. "I will exercise the authority with decisiveness," she said. "I will not shy from making the tough decision to move the nation forward." But less credible was her statement that her government will "work day and night" to collect more taxes by going after tax evaders, cutting wasteful spending in government, and encouraging investment.

The timing of the VAT hike to 12 percent—that is in year 2006—has political implications. It is a year before the 2007 mid-term elections. Half of the 24 members of the Senate and all the House seats will be elected. Although a political backlash from the effects of higher taxes will not fall directly on the President, it could hurt members of Congress running for reelection and could reduce the administration's legislative majorities. Thus, the 2007 elections will be fought on the issue of tax reform and its consequences on compounding public discontent over the rising prices of basic goods and heavier tax burdens from the VAT levies.

Within a year of her winning an electoral mandate in 2004, the President is already facing plummeting opinion poll ratings—now in record lows.

The larger significance of the approval of the VAT reform bill is not that the stalemate over it had been broken but that the bill has defined the arena of conflict in the 2007 elections, whose outcome is likely to determine whether GMA will become a lame duck President for the rest of her six year term.

After winning a fresh electoral mandate in 2004, which gave her coalition control of Congress, the President failed to deploy her majorities to push for key reform legislation with decisive results, or at least fast-track them in the legislature. The President has her last chance to show an effective and performing presidency in the implementation of the VAT bill. But her record of delivering results and of getting Congress behind her reform package does not encourage optimism.

Sacrificing science and health for politics

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TALK of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit's resignation had been circulating for almost a year, so when this piece of long-awaited news finally did surface, it seemed almost an anti-climax.

Dayrit's successor, PhilHealth head honcho Francisco Duque III, has in fact been announcing in various public functions that he would soon take over the Department of Health. From what I gather, Duque seems to believe that the health portfolio is a matter of personal destiny, his father having served as health secretary in the Cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Personal destiny or not, Duque's stint in the DOH should, it is hoped, capitalize on the positive developments of Dayrit's term, while reversing the more onerous acts and policies. Among Dayrit's detractors, and they are many, his most grievous sin has to be not just allowing the deterioration in the delivery of reproductive health services, including family planning, but actually actively promoting this scenario.

At times, it seemed that Dayrit delighted in provoking and needling his critics. At a gathering to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, Dayrit began by declaring that the country did not have a population problem, then went on to cast doubt on the statistics of his own department and that of the National Census and Statistics Board.

His few defenders suggested that Dayrit was merely playing politics. The policy to weaken family planning services, especially the delivery of modern contraceptive supplies and services, and the decision to pour funds and institutional support into the more unreliable natural family planning method, is really the policy of the President, they said, and he was merely implementing it.

* * *

IF THAT were so, then Dayrit could well be blamed for playing politics with the public's health. As a doctor and scientist, he proved all too willing to abandon what he knew and believed to be true for the exigencies of political survival. It surely is the height of irony that a public health expert, who turned his back on sound policy and good science in favor of politics, should have been outmaneuvered by someone who proved more adept at playing the game.

For me, Dayrit's biggest failing was his willingness to sacrifice the truth to pander to public opinion, or at least the opinion of those he felt he owed his loyalty to. Many times, he would make careless and stupid statements, such as the IUD causing abortion or how there is such a surfeit of contraceptive supplies that doctors use contraceptive pills to breed orchids, when as a doctor, scientist and long-time DOH official, he very well knew these to be inaccurate and untrue.

His actions and words demoralized staff at the DOH. It certainly was a disappointment to them that their own boss would be actively subverting their efforts.

But to illustrate how Dayrit was willing to play fast and loose with the facts and twist policy to suit the vested interests of a few, we need not look farther than the Postinor case.

* * *

SOON after his appointment as health secretary, Dayrit directed the Bureau of Food and Drugs to investigate the allegations of a single NGO, Gabay Pamilya, that Postinor, a branded pill marketed for use as an emergency contraceptive, caused abortions.

Dayrit's predecessor, Dr. Alberto Romualdez, had allowed the prescription of Postinor by women's and children's desks in government hospitals, mainly for use by survivors of rape and abuse. Romualdez based his order on findings that Postinor (and emergency contraception in general) prevents pregnancy mainly by delaying ovulation and also by preventing implantation of a fertilized ovum—but only within a three-day "window" after contact.

Without public hearings or consultations, especially with NGOs working with abused women, the BFAD granted Gabay Pamilya's petition to ban the "importation, storage and marketing" of Postinor. (In another instance of scientific perfidy, POGS, the organization of obstetricians and gynecologists, submitted a letter that said in part: "If indeed preventing implantation of a fertilized ovum constitutes abortion, then Postinor causes abortion.")

* * *

IT WAS around the Postinor case that various women's and service delivery organizations banded together into RHAN (Reproductive Health Advocacy Network). With WomenLead, a feminist alternative law group leading the way, RHAN filed suit with the DOH for a reconsideration of the BFAD decision on Postinor. In response, Dayrit convened an "experts committee" to determine the safety and efficacy of Postinor as well as its "mechanism of action," that is, if indeed it leads to abortion.

Only some months ago was RHAN able to get a copy of the final opinion of the committee which had been completed as early as December 2003 but was withheld from public circulation. It turns out that five of the seven members of the committee (including all the doctors save for one, a young rabid pro-lifer who was Dayrit's executive assistant) voted that Postinor is not an abortifacient and could therefore be legally prescribed in the Philippines.

The reason for keeping secret the committee findings was soon made clear. Despite the opinion in Postinor's favor, Dayrit dismissed the RHAN case, arguing that it was "closed" since Postinor's lone distributor in the country had already expressed disinterest in marketing the pill.

Thus it was that the health secretary deprived women of the chance to prevent an unwanted pregnancy, especially one resulting from rape, on his own personal whim and in defiance of scientific opinion.

A message from Asia's poor

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

WE were in Calcutta when we heard that Pope Benedict XVI had been elected. The next day, we visited some of the poorest people in Asia, urban poor families evicted from their homes along a canal and now living in shabby sidewalk lean-to huts. The huts, none higher than a man's waist, stretched as far as we could see down the street.

We met Chamon Bibi, 43, a Muslim widow. She was a ragpicker, as were many of her neighbors. While we talked her severely retarded 18-year-old son sat on the street at our feet. She told us about their hunger, insecurity, the violence in their lives, problems with water and sanitation. We saw women nearby pounding their spices and cooking on fires just a foot or so from the filth flowing in the gutter. Around 40 other poor people had gathered around us. When she finished talking, we asked her, "Why is this happening to you and your neighbors? Are you angry?"

No, she said, it was their fate. "Everything is here," she told us tapping her head. Friends who were with us said this meant, "It's all in God's hands."

Later we visited another poor area and a Hindu man, Balli Patra, answered a similar question by telling us, "We are not angry at what happens. It is our karma. We must have done something wrong."

That same night we heard on the TV that the new Pope had listed his papal priorities as Christian unity, dialogue with other religions and continuation of the Vatican Council II reforms. I couldn't help but wonder what difference can those priorities make in the lives of the poor we had met that day. Did our Church have nothing more hopeful to say to the 1.5 billion poor people of Asia, or the poor of the world?

Indian papers and TV carried long reports on the new Pope, although Catholics make up not more than 2 percent Indians. The papacy and the Pope's message, his values and his understanding of life's ultimate meaning are truly of interest to everyone. He should, it seems, speak meaningfully to all people as far as possible.

The Pope did mention poverty problems in later speeches and it's too early to say anything certain about his priorities in the concrete. Still the question persists: Does the Church have a message for the poor of the world? Is the Church a source of courage and hope for the poor, including the billions of non-Christian poor? Perhaps the quality of its message for the poor will be the test of its relevance in today's world.

What can the Church say that will help the poor understand and come to grips with their problems of finding meaning, food, health care, education, safety for their children and joy in life? Will the Church and all those who speak for God be seen by the poor to be on their side? Will they reassure the poor as Jesus did even when He spoke of the end of the world? Jesus talked of terrible natural disasters, famine, wars, torture, betrayal and martyrdom but at the end, He told the people, "Not a hair of your head will be lost. Stand firm and you will save yourselves."

When we returned to the Philippines on May 4, we noticed a harshness in the news that wasn't present two weeks earlier. The front page of this newspaper, for example, had stories about some bishops asking for the ouster of the President and about growing desperation among the poor. When was the last time bishops opted to oust a president and we feared the poor?

In these admittedly difficult times what message do our Church and our other religious bodies have? Words are important but actions are also important, especially those actions that teach without words, symbolic acts, such as, Jesus washing the feet of his apostles to teach humility in the practice of authority.

If our religious leaders don't know exactly what to say or do, they can ask the poor. There are deep layers of guilt, regret, sorrow, fear and insecurity in the poor that need the light of God's word. Our anti-poverty efforts need the courage, sacrifice, perseverance and community spirit that God's word can inspire. We have to know the people, however, before we can ask about their deepest problems. We have to spend time with them.

What symbolic actions can God's leaders offer to assure people they are serious? Maybe the poor can suggest answers. Maybe priests, bishops and ministers can live in the poor areas.

For the government, it's a time for action. Action can be the message. Can it imitate in some way the decisiveness of Ramon Magsaysay? When Magsaysay was defense secretary in November 1951, word reached Manila that Moises Padilla, a Nacionalista candidate for mayor in Magallon, Negros Occidental, had been arrested, brutally tortured and killed by the armed followers of Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Lacson. Magsaysay gathered an elite group of officers and marines and flew to Negros. He met Padilla's mother and told her he wanted to bring her son's dead body to Manila for autopsy and use in the prosecution of Lacson. The mother agreed and Magsaysay carried the body out of the house. Later he told the people, "When I carried Moises' dead body, I was carrying the dead body of Philippine democracy." He left the marines to guard Padilla's family, flew back to Manila with the body, and then arrested Lacson, several Negros mayors and the gunmen. They were quickly tried, found guilty and sent to jail.

Can't the government do something like that? It needs to prove to people it is serious when it speaks out against the murder of journalists, for example. Similar action is needed against landlords who obstruct land reform, officials who abuse the urban poor, steal millions of government funds, or undercut unions.

Let us hope the new Pope, our religious leaders and our government will find the right messages for the people, especially the poor, and, more importantly, the right actions.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

Stoned

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

NOT a day goes by without print or broadcast media mentioning shabu: shabu dependents arrested, shabu dens raided, shabu labs busted, shabu-driven crimes perpetrated. But, can you recall the last time there was an article, or a talk show, where shabu's effects—physical, mental, social—were discussed in a helpful way, rather than just scaring and depressing us?

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) claimed last year that about 11 percent of the country's population uses shabu, yet there's very little understanding about the drug except that it's "bad."

Medical ignorance

In the last few months, as I've struggled to help a very close friend to overcome his shabu habit, I've mined the libraries and the Internet for information on shabu and have realized how little we actually know about this terrible drug. We do have a lot of information about amphetamines, but not specifically about shabu itself, as it is produced, sold and used in the Philippines.

I've realized, too, how little our health professionals know about shabu. As I made the rounds of hospitals with my friend to have his various health problems checked out, I've found out that doctors aren't usually able to recognize shabu dependence, and the problems produced by that dependence.

For example, I had to bring my friend to an ear specialist when he complained of acute earaches. The doctor initially couldn't find anything wrong with my friend's ears, but discovered he had acute rhinitis, meaning his nasal passages were inflamed. The doctor was puzzled and asked if my friend smoked or lived in an area with air pollution. When I finally whispered, "Shabu," the doctor went, "Of, course!"—amazed at what the drug could do.

For our more innocent readers, shabu is inhaled and this creates problems in the nose, which then affects other adjoining organs: the ears, the throat, the lungs. The reason I began to suspect my friend was on shabu was that he was always expectorating, trying to bring phlegm out from his lungs. Since he doesn't smoke, or have any respiratory disease, I began to suspect shabu.

Generally, the doctors I consulted (as well as some dentists; did you know shabu destroys the teeth as well?) admitted they knew little about shabu, or other drugs being abused. Some of them would try to comfort me, assuring me that no one dies of shabu overdose, but I've realized, from observing my friend and his user friends, that shabu does kill, indirectly and slowly—slowly taking away our loved ones, transforming the gentlest persons into vicious, mean and amoral people ready to engage in the most risky of activities.

Silent denial

Actually my doctor-friends, including some who teach in medical schools, were the ones who asked if I could eventually write more about the medical problems around drugs, especially shabu. I will do this in future columns. Today's column is more of an appeal to break the silence around shabu.

We are making little progress dealing with the shabu problem because we still look at drugs as a police matter. We see drug users mainly as criminals and rehab as punishment. Because we create so much stigma around shabu and drugs in general, we lapse into silent denial, even when the problem affects our own families.

My friend was actually enthusiastic when I said I wanted to write about shabu. Quite often, he'd be the one to push me to talk openly about his problem and, whenever I'd do this, it was amazing how others would open up as well, revealing how a neighbor, a cousin, a best friend, a brother, even occasionally a lolo or lola was also hooked.

We've laughed as we shared common experiences: shabu use produces its own crop of the surreal and absurd experiences, the most common being perceptions that the users always end up with the most hideous of extra-marital partners. (Contrary to popular perception, shabu never enhances aesthetics.)

Other times we've held back our tears as we began talking about how marriages break up, about children suffering from their parents' use of drugs, about family savings quickly disappearing with the dependents' stealing and rehab expenses.

Shabu reveals to us the extent of corruption in our society. I've heard of cops who are pushers, of rehab centers that themselves turn out to be drug dens, corrupt guards and nurses supplying patients with shabu, alcohol and other drugs. I've discovered how it's become good business for some rehab centers to keep their patients hooked on shabu, or on "therapy." I've heard heartbreaking stories, too, of patients who have languished in these centers for months, their families leaving them in rehab out of sight, out of mind.

On the positive side, I've met people who have found strength, in families and friends, in dedicated counselors and rehab center staff, and, most importantly, in themselves, to fight shabu and drugs. We say too little, know too little, about these difficult journeys toward recovery, of the ordeals as well as the triumphs.

Therapeutic communities

Once I was with my friend in a restaurant and the owner, after realizing my friend was in the recovery process, began to talk about how he was able to overcome a serious shabu addiction. I have no doubts that was a turning point for my friend, the restaurant owner being living proof of what could be done to overcome the odds.

Today's column is an appeal then for people, users, ex-users and their families and friends, to speak out more often, to let people know what's involved with shabu and other drugs. Let's do this without sensationalism, without moralizing, without self-defeating pity. We need more insights into the human side to this problem: why in many ways the shabu epidemic reflects a general malaise in society, and why our current approaches only worsen the problem. The Tagalog slang word for shabu—*bato* (stone)—is appropriate because we are, really, a nation stoned.

When I negotiated with the rehab center to allow my friend (okay, my partner) to go on an outpatient basis, I had to convince them I had done my own homework to build a supportive therapeutic community outside, of family and friends ready to give time to help him. To be frank, I wasn't really sure about how committed people were but the day I brought my friend home from rehab, I was astonished to find the house packed with people. Pinoy style, they'd organized a welcome party. I thought to myself, oh, but if we could have more of these therapeutic communities, ready to be firm and brave, yet patient and caring, we'd probably learn, too, how to heal a nation.

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Pride in the national dress

I CAME upon a feature article on the Philippine Women's University requiring its high school students to wear gala *terno* ("Terno In, Toga Out. Sunday Lifestyle, 3/25/2005") for their graduation rites. It reminded me that I have an heirloom right in my *aparador*, a jusi *terno*, complete with *panuelo* (Oh, how the school fought this battle to retain the *panuelo*!), which I wore at my graduation from the school. I think it cost my parents P50 then, or was it P25? And if anyone sneezes at the sum, that was a small fortune in 1950. Ask your grandmama.

It's true. The *terno* made me feel regal and proper, making a difference in the way I walked and carried myself. It's a wonder the school has kept the tradition for 85 years—surely a record no other school can claim. A unique tradition that I hope will not be changed. You wear the *terno* and you're making a statement: I am a Filipina and proud of it.

To today's jeans-clad generation, would not wearing the national dress even once or twice in your lifetime, be worth the *terno's* price—made-to-order or rented? I'm speaking of pride in our national dress. When you wear it, you are quietly holding up the flag!

—LUNING BONIFACIO-IRA,
50 Panay Ave., Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

No mention of Winston Garcia

THIS refers to Gil Cabacungan's new report titled "Spin gurus tell GMA: Drop Garcia" which appeared in your May 7, 2005 issue.

I categorically deny having advised the President during an interview with dzMM to get rid of GSIS general manager Winston Garcia.

For the record, it was one of the hosts, either Gerry Baja or Anthony Taberna, who asked me if I would advise the President to oust from office government officials who are giving her problems "*katulad ni* Winston Garcia."

I don't deny having said that if the President intends to serve the people well, she should consider getting rid of government officials who are giving her administration a bad name. Mine was a general statement and I strongly deny having mentioned Mr. Garcia's name.

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) is an organization that puts premium on integrity, honesty, objectivity, accuracy and adherence to the highest standards of professionalism.

We hope that the Philippine Daily Inquirer supports PRSP's objective of being a socially responsible organization with only the welfare of the country and the public as its basic and primary guide.

—AMYLYN SISON-DE QUIROS,
president, Public Relations
Society of the Philippines

AMYLYN Sison-de Quiros herself admitted that her answer was in reply to the question of Taverna who specifically cited Garcia as one of the bad eggs in government. I believe that the question is as important as the answer. I hope this clarifies this matter.

—GIL CABACUNGAN, reporter

Wrong National Heroes Day

NATIONAL Heroes Day is celebrated every last Sunday of August by virtue of Public Act No. 3827 which was approved by the American governor-general in 1931.

Like the Araw ng Kagitingan (Fall of Bataan, April 9), National Heroes Day marks the defeat of Andres Bonifacio at the Battle of Pinaglabanan, San Juan. Is the Filipino mind conditioned into thinking that defeat is honorable?

The Fall of Bataan and Corregidor happened during an "American War"—when the Philippines was a colony of the United States.

National Heroes Day should be celebrated every April 27 to commemorate the victory of the Filipinos under Lapu-Lapu over the Spanish conquistador Ferdinand Magellan in the Battle of Mactan, Cebu in 1521.

—CAPT. ARSENIO A. GUINTO, PN (ret.), Cavite
Historical Society, 370 A. Del Rosario St.,
Caridad, Cavite City

On Muslim-Christian relations

(Editor's Note: What follows is a condensed version of comments posted on INQ7.net's Talking Points section: <news.inq7.net/talkingpoints>. To join the conversation, send e-mail to talkingpoints@inq7.net)

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

The conflicts between Christians and Muslims have been going on long enough. It is time for us to move toward the path of peace and learn from the past.

Whether Muslims or Christians, we are all Filipinos, a peace-loving people who love one God.—**Raelisiot Beasuharte**

***

To have a lasting solution to the problem, we have to know and understand its roots. We have to know why the Muslims feel abandoned and marginalized by the government, which is run by officials who are mostly Christians.

Let us accept that Mindanao, where a great majority of our Muslim brothers live, is underdeveloped compared to Luzon and Visayas. Present development efforts in the area are being blocked by the Muslim rebels (who are already fed up with the government), bandits and corrupt officials.

All our problems are caused by corruption, which starts with our government. A corrupt government forces its people to be corrupt also. As a result, when a new person takes over a government position, he is most likely already corrupt. If not, he will be forced to be corrupt, as he will be dealing with corrupt officials, corrupt businessmen, corrupt politicians, corrupt media and even corrupt citizens.—**Hard Buddie**

***

Indonesian President Sukarno once said, "If you don't know me, you don't like me." I agree with that completely, especially so when applied to the Filipino Christian-Muslim relationship. How much [do] the Christians of Luzon, Visayas, and even of Mindanao, know about Muslims or vice versa?

Honestly, we know much more about Americans, Spaniards, Italians, and Arabs than about each other. It is a shame, but that is the truth. Come on, let us forget our false ego. We cannot afford to remain divided forever. The Christians are not the enemy of the Muslims (Filipinos or not). It is the non-believers, the pagans, the immoral, the Satanic, who are the enemy of both the Muslims and Christians.—**Mohd Nur Aslakani**

***

I worked in Saudi Arabia for eight years and nine months, and I'd say that not all Muslims are bad people the same way I can say that not all Christians are good people.

We must respect the Muslims' religious beliefs in order to have a harmonious relationship with them, and this I did with my Muslim *sadiks* (friends), and we got along just fine. In fact, we sometimes discussed our beliefs without any arguments.—**Jun Arevalo**

***

I [have been] working and living in a Muslim country for almost nine years now. And we have been living harmoniously with our Muslim host and friends here in UAE [United Arab Emirates]. In fact, we can practice our faith freely in this country where our Christian churches stand side by side with the Muslim mosques.

I completely agree with Ms Loi Castillo. In our country, media can play a major role to change the mistaken image that many Christians have of our Muslim brothers. We should build, trust, and respect, not mistrust and hate each other.—**Eden Lara, Data Entry Supervisor, ICLP Dubai**

***

I grew up in a Muslim-dominated place in Semba, Dinaig, Maguindanao. My parents lived there since "peacetime," as they called the period [before] World War II and [the] Japanese occupation. They lived and experienced [these times] with their Muslim neighbors, but never mentioned distinctions or issues about religion.

Then came martial law, and both Muslims and Christians were subjected to interrogation, harassment by the military. But in our place, religion was never an issue.

I think the main issue here is [that] we should never make distinctions by religion.—**Jade Lim**

***

To understand why there is a rift in the relationship between Filipino Muslims and Christians one must understand the root of the problem.

It isn't just a religious or cultural problem. My sense is that the conflict is rooted on ancestral lands and economic deprivation of the Muslims. That's where it all started, and to this day the solution to the problem has been very elusive.—**Andre Faura**

***

As a teacher in a Catholic School, I tried to inculcate understanding and respect [for the] other. I despise people [who] bring the "gap" [with] their beliefs.

And we still have one same "devil" to beat—poverty.—**Ricci Santiago**

***

I [was] a missionary surgeon in Ethiopia from 1988 to 1998. As such, I was able to interact with a lot of people. Ethiopia has a largely Christian and Muslim population, with a small number of animists. For them, these are just religions. You can see many families live in one house, a mixture of Christian and Muslim—Christian married to Muslim and Muslim married to Christian.

These people are not so carried [away] by radical and fanatical religion. If only people in our country [would] look at Islam and Christianity as nothing less, nothing more than religion, regardless of cultural and traditional background, I'm sure we will finally enjoy the peace that has been so elusive.—**Moises V. Granada, MD**

***

To improve the relationship between [these] two cultures, the following is recommended:

1. News reporting should not single out religions especially those involved in criminal activities.
2. Do not sensationalize issues when a non-Catholic is involved. We seldom hear news reports saying that a Roman Catholic thief was arrested by police.
3. Media should stop biased reporting outside Metro Manila.
4. Include in the school academic programs other cultures and religions so that school children will respect other cultures.—**Loi Castillo**

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Death toll in bus crash rises to 29

A POLICEMAN inspects the wreck of the ill-fated bus.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—She was known as "Girl X," but people finally learned her name when seven-year-old Jessica Fernandez expired while undergoing treatment for head injuries at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center here.

The deaths of Fernandez and fellow passenger Joseph Tavas, 19, of Tubao, La Union, have raised the death toll of Wednesday's bus crash along Marcos Highway to 29 on Thursday.

The speeding Dagupan City-bound Byron Bus line smashed into a roadside boulder on Wednesday noon after it turned turtle along Barangay Badiwan in Tuba, Benguet.

Jessica's brother, "Boy X," who was later identified as five-year-old Epang Fernandez, continues to recuperate after undergoing surgery.

Only nine of the 24 who died at the crash site were identified, but the local Philippine National Red Cross office has completed the list of fatalities.

Baguio health officials have already processed the death certificate of one-year-old Jan Lester Llaneras, who died along with his mother, Novelyn Llaneras. They were residents of Aringay, La Union.

Also in the PNRC fatality list were: Luzviminda Bungar of San Carlos City, Pangasinan; Francia Pascua of Barangay Irisan, Baguio; Kimberly Berot of Lingayen, Pangasinan; Crisanto Cerafica of Barangay City Camp, Baguio; Maximo Acquioben of Pugo, La Union; and Gutangan Guinyang of Banaue, Ifugao.

Abegail Clave, Susan Magno, Adela Martinez, and Caridad Vinluan were also in the list.

The PNRC said three more unidentified bodies remain unclaimed, although the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the Cordillera reported only one unidentified victim in their roster of fatalities.

The PNRC originally included another six-month-old baby girl among the dead. The girl was pulled out of the wreckage along with her mother, Cristina Natabio, according to Anastacia Tamayo, PNRC Baguio chapter administrator. They were only identified on Wednesday night.

But late Thursday afternoon, the PNRC started to investigate the status of the Natabioses because their names were no longer listed among the bodies under the custody of a local funeral parlor. *Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Gobleth Moulic, Marie Joyce Godio, Cherry Ann Palaganas and Hannah Calub, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Pictures show mayor's killer in wedding rites

STA. ROSA CITY—The police task force formed to solve the murder of Mayor Leon Arcillas yesterday announced a major breakthrough in its investigation as it presented a computer-enhanced photograph of one of the alleged assailants.

During an early morning press briefing, Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police director, said the photo of the suspected gunman was culled from numerous photographs taken at the civil wedding that Arcillas officiated moments before he was gunned down at the hallway of the second floor of the new City Hall.

He said the couples who were wed during the ceremonies forwarded the photographs to the Task Force Arcillas.

The discovery of the photograph reinforced the earlier theory of Supt. Mario Sanga, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Calabarzon, that the suspects pretended to be among the guests in the wedding rites.

Versoza said the photo of the still unidentified man resembled the artist's sketch made by the CIDG from the description of one of the witnesses.

He said the photo also fit the description of the witnesses, who said the assassin wore a red shirt.

"We have actually presented the photo to several (eye witnesses) and they testified that it was one of the gunmen who shot the mayor," Versoza said during the press conference.

Despite the good news, the family of the slain mayor said what they wanted was for the police to immediately uncover and arrest the mastermind.

"The arrest of the suspect would mean nothing if the mastermind remains free," said Vice Mayor Arleen Arcillas-Nazareno, the slain mayor's daughter.

Being the city's first councilor, Arcillas-Nazareno swore in the other day as the new vice mayor.

Sta. Rosa is the youngest city in the Philippines, having been converted in February last year.

The late Arcillas was its first elected city mayor. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mayors condemn killing of Arcillas

THE LEAGUE of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), representing all the 117 cities in the country, has condemned the "brutal and senseless" murder of their former colleague, Sta. Rosa Mayor Leon Arcillas, on Tuesday.

Arcillas was shot dead by three unidentified assailants, one of them suspected to be a woman, shortly after officiating a mass wedding at the second floor of the new City Hall.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police chief, said they were still pursuing the possible involvement of communist assassins in the killing of Arcillas despite the denial of communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal that New People's Army rebels were the ones responsible in Arcillas' assassination.

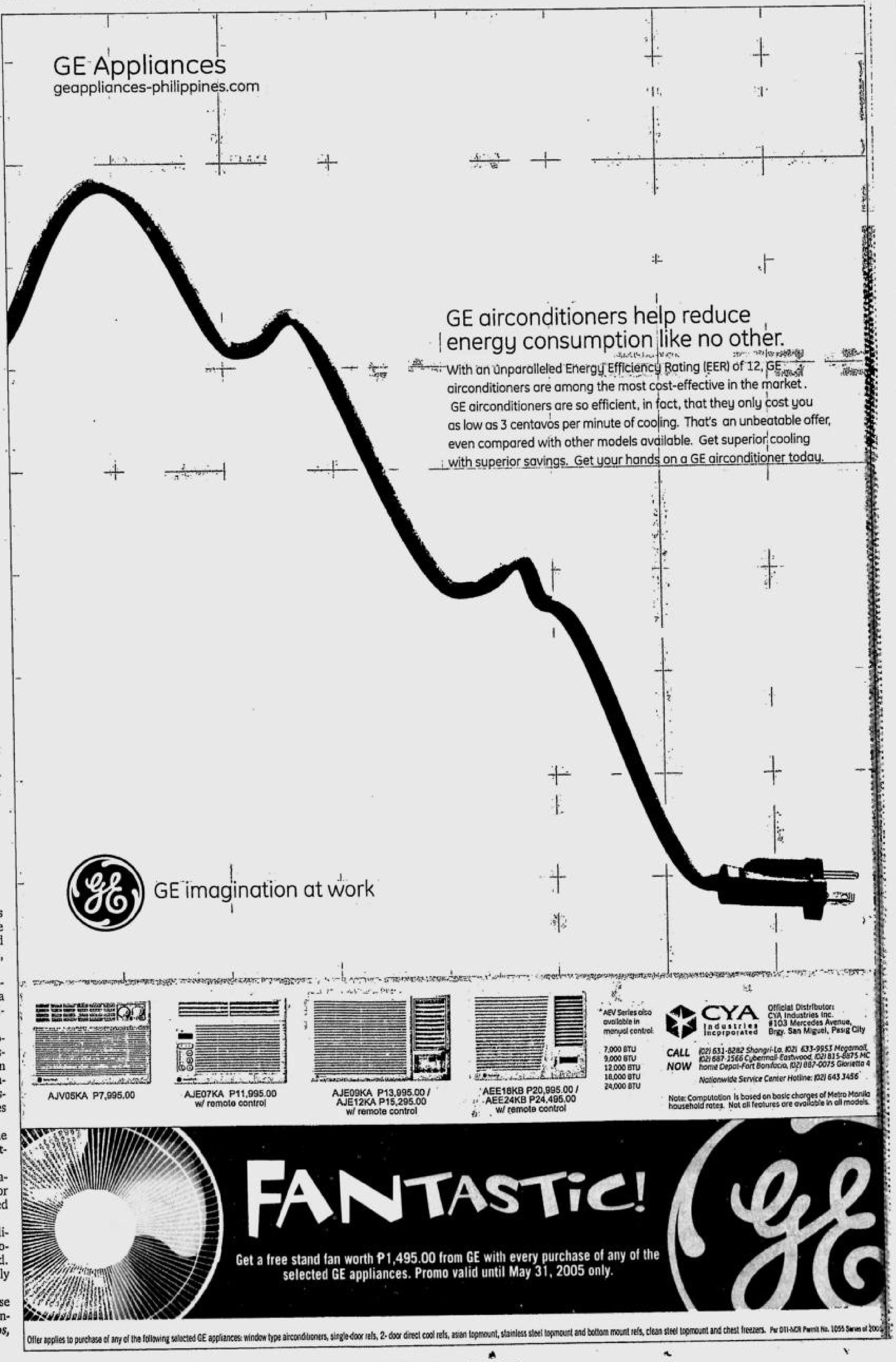
Versoza said they were still looking into the three angles that they had established—political, NPA and personal grudge.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Treñas, LCP national president, and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, the group's chair, branded the killing as senseless and treacherous.

"It is a betrayal of human decency, an indication of cowardice, and an affront to our social and democratic institutions," Treñas said.

He called on the police to immediately identify and arrest the killers.

"I also call on our fellow city mayors to raise their voice of condemnation over this tragic incident," said the LCP leaders. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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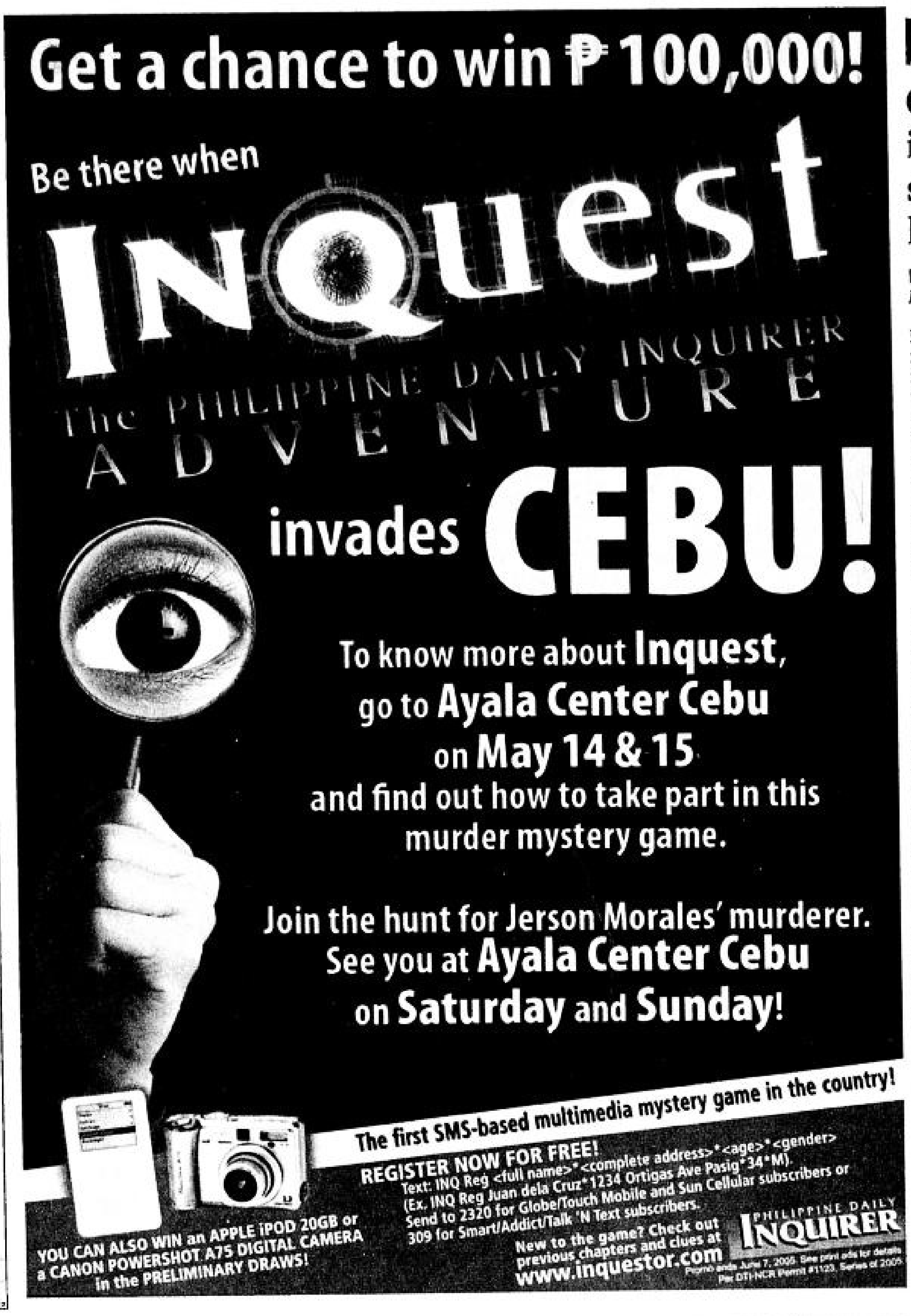
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German in Boracay slays says he's home

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Confirming that he is now in his own country, the German national earlier tagged as the main suspect in last year's killings on Boracay Island said he fled from the Philippines because he believed the justice system in the country is "too corrupt."

"I always believed there is some justice in the Philippines. But later on I find out that the order to charge me with the crime came from higher up because it (would look) better for tourism if a (foreigner gets charged)," claimed Uwe Friesl in an e-mail to the INQUIRER that was yesterday forwarded by his lawyer Jaime Ma. Flores II.

Friesl and three unidentified suspects are facing four counts of murder at the Aklan Regional Trial Court for the May 2004 killing of his fellow German Anton Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni, Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento.

The victims' bodies, with multiple stab wounds, were found in separate rooms of Forstenhausler's three-story mansion in Mt. Luho in Balabag village in Boracay on May 3, 2004.

Innocent

Friesl said he is not involved in the crime. "I don't want to be charged for something (that) I haven't done. I am innocent!"

He said Forstenhausler was "one of the best friends" he ever had. "I am sure he will (be turning) in his grave if he could see what's going on…"

Flores said his client has requested him through a common friend to pursue whatever legal means to reopen the investigation of the case.

In an earlier interview, Flores said he failed to file a petition for review at the justice department because he lost contact with his client.

He said he was not sure how to pursue the case now because the period to file the petition has lapsed two months ago.

Rules

If his client wants to pursue his appeal, Flores said he has to ask for an exemption on the DOJ rule that the appellant in a case should be present in the country and should personally verify the petition submitted by the appellant's lawyer.

Officials of the German Embassy and the Philippine National Police last week confirmed that Friesl slipped out of the country and was already in his hometown in Bavaria in Germany.

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INQBox Question of the Week

More than 90 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986. The Committee to Protect Journalists has identified the Philippines as "the most murderous country for journalists," followed by Iraq, Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia. What should be done to stop the killings?

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to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

Group says soldiers cordoned off church

LUCENA CITY—A human rights group yesterday decried alleged military harassment when fully armed Army soldiers surrounded the Catholic church in Lopez, Quezon, where its members were staying, along with at least 25 local residents who fled their homes due to the government's counter-insurgency operations.

Miles Batas, a staff member of the Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview that 10 soldiers from the 76th Infantry Battalion surrounded them while they were inside the church near the municipal hall.

Batas said the contingent of human rights activists was with six families composed of 16 persons, with the youngest about 5 months old.

The evacuees came from Sitio Sto. Niño in Barangay Villaminda.

"They are victims of continuing militarization in Lopez. There are also reports that six persons from a nearby village, Villanacaob, are still missing," he said.

Lt. Jonathan de la Fuente explained that the soldiers were deployed in the area upon the request of the local government.

"The town mayor called for our presence to prevent the leftist group from staging a protest rally even without a permit. They were afraid that the local police would not be enough to handle the situation," De la Fuente said when contacted through his mobile phone.

He said the town official simply wanted to maintain peace and order in the locality. "They don't know who those activists are. Upon investigation, we were told that the group came from as far as Laguna. So what are they doing in Lopez?"

Officials of the military's Southern Luzon Command said "massive" anti-insurgency attacks were being mounted in the Quezon-Bicol area to foil plans by the communist New People's Army to stage its summer offensives.

Batas said the human rights activists were the same people that the police and the military detained in Tagkawayan, Quezon on May 9 on charges that the jeepneys that they were riding in were traveling out of line.

In the last phone contact with Batas, he said his group was holding a dialogue with local officials in the municipal hall.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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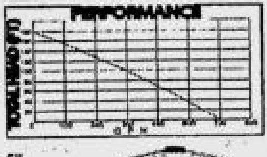

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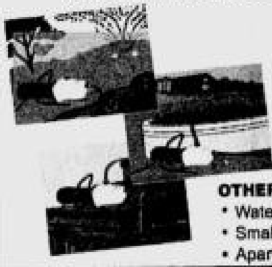

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please take notice that on September 12, 2002, our client Jardine Land Inc. ("JLI") foreclosed real property covered by TCT Numbers RT-71869, RT 71870 and RT 71873 ("Property") registered in the name of Unlad Resources Development Corporation ("Unlad") located at EDSA corner Thomas C. Benitez Street, Quezon City. Upon failure by Unlad and the Philippine Women's University (as mortgagors) to redeem the Property, JLI consolidated title thereon. JLI intends to obtain possession of the Property immediately. Regrettably, upon JLI's taking of possession, the present school operations on the premises will not be permitted.

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By JOSE A. BERNAS

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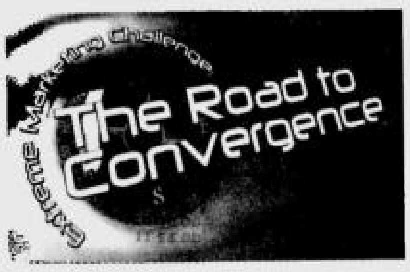
Learning from outside

But that's not enough for today's Filipino companies, who now have to learn to compete not just against each other, but against companies in Asia and the rest of the world. The Japanese, after all, had no qualms about learning from the Western countries in order to do better. The VP from the world's fifth largest agency network is flying in from Singapore. A co-author of Philip Kotler is flying in from Indonesia. The senior vice president of Adidas Salomon is flying in from Hong Kong.



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The rate of P8,500 is only available to Filipino delegates, as foreign delegates have to pay US$300 to attend this conference, so do not let this opportunity go to waste. Call 849-69-36 to book a slot for the 36th National Marketing Conference today.

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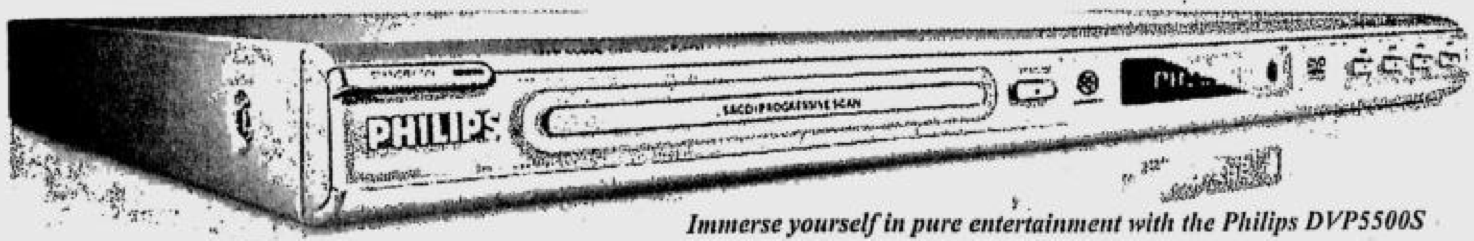

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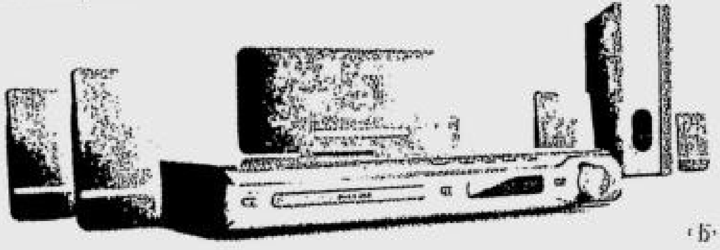

Enjoy full cinematic sight and sound with the Philips HTS3300 Home Entertainment System

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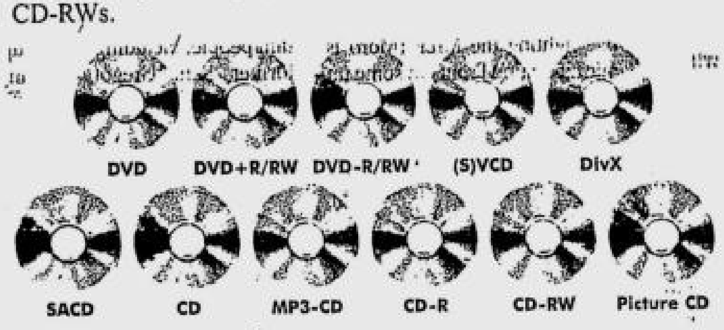
In today's multifaceted entertainment environment, your search for a DVD player that's compatible with every known format ends with Philips. Philips DVD players can play movies and other videos in DVD, DVD-R/RW, DVD-R/RW, VCD and SVCD formats. For music, Philips DVD players can play CDs, MP3-CDs, CD-R, and CD-RWs.



Even viewing digital photos is a snap. Philips DVD players can read JPEG files in Picture CDs without compromising quality, and can even play videos in DivX, an MPEG-4 based video compression technology. Thanks to the Progressive Scan feature, Philips DVD Players give razor-sharp and flicker-free images, plus high quality analog and digital audio outputs.

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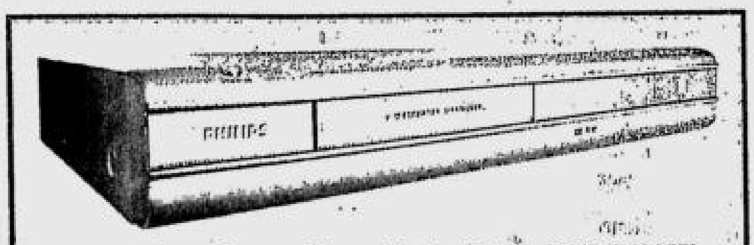
Whether you want operational ease or all the works combined, Philips has the widest range of DVD players, all packed with features guaranteed to suit your entertainment needs.

Unrivaled video performance and superior audio pleasure combine in the *Philips DVP5500S.* With its ultra-sleek, minimal look, this DVD player features the wonder of multi-channel Super Audio CD music and surround sound cinematic movie experience, coupled with high-resolution imaging technology to give you the closest to live performance in entertainment.

Should you wish to record anything, then go for the *Philips DVDR520H,* which comes with 80GB of hard disc storage translating to almost 100 hours of recording. It also comes with optical disc recording and playback on any format.

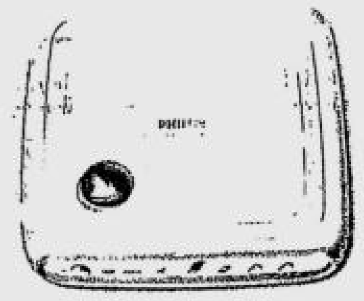


Record everything with the Philips DVDR520H's 80 GB Hard Disk and DVD recording

Record whatever, however you want

Record everything, and put an end to storage worries! The perfect recording solution comes with Philips DVDR520H. This DVD player comes with an 80-GB hard disk that gives you up to 100 hours of TV or movie recording, and lets you convert your non-DVD materials to DVD. What's more, with the iLink digital connectivity, you can even preserve your favorite camcorder memories straight to DVD. You can even share your favorite stuffs since the DVDs you create will play on other DVD players and PC drives.

Because of the extreme speed of the Hard Disk drive in this Philips DVD player, it enables you to watch the beginning of what you've recorded even while you're still recording the ending! This feature, called FlexTime, is one of the unit's advanced features, and another manifestation of Philips' continuing drive for DVD excellence.



Enjoy freedom with this portable Philips DVP4000 DVD player

Want a more impressive entertainment box? You can go for the *Philips HTS3300*, a compact DVD Home Entertainment System that boasts of full cinematic sight and sound. Its DVD player comes with an audio arsenal consisting of four 2-way satellite speakers and a 2-way center speaker with subwoofer, enhanced with DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1, Dolby ProLogic II, and Class D Digital Amplifiers, all contributing to high-powered pure digital sound quality. It even has a karaoke function to give you, your family and your friends endless enjoyable singing engagements.

For portability, nothing beats the *Philips DVP4000.* Fit it anywhere and play it anywhere you want to enjoy sharp, crystal-clear picture and sound quality, whether movies or music. All the best feature of Philips DVD players are bundled in its compact design and easy set-up unit.

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Successive product innovations such as these, both in technology and in design, have made Philips the top-selling brand of DVD player for many years now. By combining such highly advanced features at such a perfect price, Philips has consistently won the preference of consumers over other brands of DVD players.

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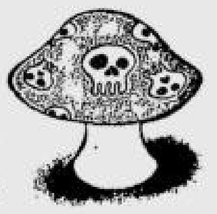
Bulacan vet slain

STA. MARIA, Bulacan—A veterinarian was hacked and killed by a man whom he used to hire for various construction jobs in his house in Barangay Buenavista here on May 3. Police said neighbors found the bloodied Dr. Gaudencio Clemente, 53, in the sala of his house. Police said Clemente bore cuts and bruises in different parts of the body. Police said robbery was the motive for the attack. They said Clemente was killed because he knew the suspect, Jose Valera, 54, a welder. Police said Valera took P250,000 from Clemente. They recovered a pipe fitter, a pipe and other welding materials with bloodstains in the house. Valera was arrested on May 9.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wild mushrooms down 6



GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least six persons from Tampakan, South Cotabato were brought to a government hospital after eating wild mushrooms on Wednesday noon, health officials said Thursday. Dr. Conrado Brania of the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital in Koronadal City said all victims were already safe after undergoing treatment. Mushrooms are abundant in the hinterland areas, especially when it rains, but authorities warned that some species, which appear similar to edible ones, could actually be poisonous. Last week, poisonous mushrooms also sent five people to the hospital in North Cotabato.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Family attacked at home

MATI, Davao Oriental—Members of a farming family in Barangay Don Martin Marundan here were shot and wounded allegedly by a militiaman on Wednesday. Police said Romulo and Loida Palmera, both 55, and their son, Joval, 30, were having dinner when the suspect, later identified as Robert Sabijon, arrived and started shooting them with a Carbine rifle. PO2 Bernard Bumatay, police investigator, said the victims pretended to be dead.

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

House seats sought

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines is presenting to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. this month a copy of a draft bill seeking a seat for the league in the House of Representatives. The proposed measure, introduced by Pampanga Board Member Aurelio Gonzales, was approved in the 13th national convention of the league in Cebu City in February, according to Antique Board Member Vincent Piccio III, the league's national president. "As lawmakers in our own right representing grassroots constituency, I believe it is well within reason and right to work for such a representation in the national lawmaking process," Gonzales said in his resolution. The position will represent at least 967 board members from at least 79 provinces, Piccio said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fish project inaugurated

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated a United States Agency for International Development project in Coron with outgoing US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone. The project, called the FISH or Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest, is in the municipalities of Coron, Busuanga, Culion and Linapacan in northern Palawan. Ms Arroyo arrived in a helicopter and was joined by Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, former Energy Secretary Vince Perez, Gov. Joel Reyes, Coron Mayor Marjo Reyes and other officials of the Calamianes. The President was in Rio Tuba, Bataraza in southern Palawan on April 13 to inaugurate a P10-billion nickel processing plant funded by Japanese investors.

QPHS Class '70 Reunion

CLASS '70 of the Quezon Provincial High School (QPHS) will hold its 35th anniversary reunion in Lucena City tomorrow. Mass will be held in the Holy Rosary Chapel at 9 a.m., followed by a motorcade to Emcza Ristin Resort at Better Living, Iyam, where registration and the rest of the day's activities will be held. For details, members were told to contact Dr. Connie Reyes Imperial (710-4047) in Lucena, or Teody Nosce (526-0032) and Nonong Llave (526-9819) in Manila.

Donations

DONATIONS for Michelle Ann Balintongog, the girl who suffered broken legs after trying to save her sister from harm, may be deposited to the following bank accounts: Lourdes S. Casabuena, Acct No. 507606925-4, Development Bank of the Philippines and Aileen Balintongog, ATM Acct. No. 0726460-18-3, Philippine National Bank.

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Now, it's BIR going after top CAP executives

From page A1

Hundreds of CAP plan holders stormed its offices in the provinces after the checks it issued last semester for the tuition of beneficiaries bounced. CAP has some 780,000 plan holders.

Piggy bank

The complainants, representing maids, jeepney drivers and professionals, claimed the board of directors of CAP, CAP Pension and members of the Sobrepeña family had used the CAP's funds as their personal "piggy bank" to bankroll directly and indirectly the operations of their family-owned corporations.

Even as they go after CAP, BIR officials said they were careful not to unduly undermine the financial viability of the pre-need company.

"It is the most difficult question I have to answer," Parayno said of the dilemma he has found himself in after a check with the Integrated Tax System showed that CAP was not paying taxes.

Focus on executives only

After some "soul searching," Parayno said the BIR finally decided to proceed with the filing of the case, but opted to "separate the acts" of CAP executives from the company to shield it from further trouble.

"We have to distinguish between the company, the plans, the [plan holders] and the actions of the officers, who were responsible for the difficulties of the company," he said at a press briefing at the DOJ.

Extension

Bobby Cafe, first vice president of CAP, said the pre-need firm had sought an extension for the remittance of withholding taxes to the BIR.

In a statement, Cafe said BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares had approved a six-month extension based on a BIR letter dated May 11, 2005.

But he said the extension was contingent on the receipt of proof of payment of P500,000. Cafe said CAP had paid this amount through the Philippine National Bank under E-payment Transaction No. 560108.

CAP's board of directors identified the assets and mechanics of payment at its meeting on May 5, according to the vice president.

Cafe said CAP filed a case with the Court of Tax Appeals on April 4 in connection with its unpaid VAT.

Parayno said the BIR was willing to accept payment of the taxes in installments, "consistent with the need to rehabilitate the company and prevent more damage to its [plan holders]."

"However, we cannot extend a similar accommodation to officials who were responsible not only perhaps for nonremittance of the taxes of policy holders to the government, but probably [were] even responsible for the dissipation of these pension or assurance plans," he said.

Payment by installment

At the press briefing, BIR Deputy Commissioner Liserio Evangelista said CAP, which is considered a "large taxpayer," was found to have filed "withholding taxes for compensation returns," "expanded withholding taxes returns" and "value-added tax" from the middle of last year to early this year.

But the company, he said, "deliberately failed to make the payments corresponding to such returns" and to remit withholding taxes. As of May 2, 2005, CAP's "total tax liabilities" amounted to P53 million.

CAP Pension also allegedly committed the same offense. Its tax liabilities amounted to P32.52 million as of May 2, 2005.

"CAP Phils. Inc. and CAP Pension offered to settle their liabilities in installments. However, to date, no installment payment was received from [them]," he said.

"Let me stress, however, that full or partial settlement of civil liabilities will not prevent the BIR from filing a criminal case for manifest violations of the Tax Code," Evangelista said.

Dried fish dealer

The BIR also filed yesterday tax evasion charges against businessman Eliseo Co, owner of the Divisoria Dried Fish Center and General Merchandising.

The BIR found that Co supplied fish products to the Bureau of Corrections, collecting more than P14 million. But he declared sales of only P9.2 million.

Parayno said this represented undeclared revenues of more than P4.8 million, which was 52 percent of what Co had declared. The National Internal Revenue Code considers an under-declaration of more than 30 percent prima facie evidence of a fraudulent return.

"I hope that with our continuing campaign against tax evasion, the public now realizes that we are dead serious in our desire to prosecute tax evaders," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said.

"We will continue to run after them no matter who they are and how big or small they may be," he said.

Reward posters

Parayno said that the BIR had filed charges against 20 companies and individuals and that the DOJ had started preliminary investigations of the complaints.

The Department of Finance has also distributed "reward posters," which are reproductions of its newspaper ads offering rewards for information on acts of tax evasion, to business establishments, including private and government banks, according to the BIR chief.

Contact No.: 922-4751

He said the posters would be displayed prominently in public places to remind the public of the government's intensified campaign against tax evaders.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said those with knowledge of acts of tax evasion could earn up to P1 million by contacting the BIR's National Investigation Division Service at tel. No. 922-4751.

Mistreated Fil-Aussie found in Olongapo

From page A1

discriminatory.

Alvarez's half-sister in the Philippines accused the Australian government of racism. Her brother in Australia was relieved his sister had been found, but said the family wanted the government to explain how it had botched Alvarez's case.

Memory loss

As the drama played out, Alvarez appeared largely oblivious to it. She has suffered apparent memory loss and other ailments since a car accident several years ago that brought her to the attention of Australian immigration authorities and led to her deportation.

In a poignant reunion here on Thursday, Alvarez did not immediately recognize her half-sister, Cecil Solon, saying she was still suffering trauma from the accident.

"Are you going to look after me, really?" Alvarez asked Solon, who responded that she would.

"I am stronger than you," Solon told her half-sister, who was in a wheelchair and complained of pain in her pelvis and head.

Alvarez said she wanted to meet the rest of her family: "That would be nice, but I can't remember them because of my injuries."

Alvarez had lived in Australia for about 18 years before her car accident.

Deported in 2001

After the accident, after which she apparently suffered memory loss, Alvarez told authorities she wasn't an Australian and had been kept as a sex slave in the eastern city of Brisbane, Australian media had reported.

REUNITED. Cecil Solon meets her half-sister, Vivian Alvarez, in Olongapo City. Alvarez was reportedly injured in a car accident and was mistakenly believed to be an illegal alien in Australia. AP

Australian authorities deported her in 2001, but never publicly said on what grounds.

On Thursday, Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone said Alvarez was escorted to Manila's airport by Australian officials, who handed her over to an unnamed woman who apparently worked for a women's organization.

Vanstone said officials had been trying to find Alvarez since the government realized its mistake in 2003, but had been unable to find her or the woman who had met her at the airport.

Mystery

But Father Duffin, who revealed Alvarez's whereabouts, challenged this account, saying she had been brought to the hospice by Australian officials, who must've known where to look for her.

"How they can say they are looking for her, report her missing, when they are the ones who placed her where she is now," Father Duffin told reporters. "To me, it's a mystery."

Recently, some 100,000 members of the Filipino community in Australia condemned the way the Australian government handled Alvarez's case. They have called for a public inquiry into the unlawful detention of people holding valid visas.

Several Filipino groups in Australia had also tried locating Alvarez in the Philippines.

The Center for Philippine Concerns Australia (CPCA) said Filipinos in Australia had questioned how their government valued citizenship in their country.

Duffin, an Australian who is based in the Philippines, recognized a photograph of a missing woman shown on television as Alvarez, one of the residents of a shelter where he serves as a chaplain in Olongapo.

In Canberra, Howard said the circumstances of Alvarez's case "appear very sad."

"It would be a matter of sorrow and regret that this lady who appears to be an Australian citizen has been deported," Howard told parliament.

A government inquiry into an earlier immigration case—of a German-born Australian resident locked up for months in an Outback detention center—would also investigate Alvarez's case, Australian officials said.

Meeting with Aussie official

Australian Consul General to the Philippines Frank Evatt held a private meeting with Alvarez, Solon and Duffin on Thursday.

Evatt denied that Australian authorities knew all along where Alvarez was.

"I can assure you that that's not the case," Evatt told reporters. "We've spent an enormous amount of effort on Vivian. There's no way that I've seen any record at all that we had any knowledge that she was here."

Solon blamed the Australian government for her sister's condition. "Had she been white, she would not have been deported immediately. There was some kind of racial discrimination," she said.

Ruined life

In Brisbane, Alvarez's brother, Henry Solon, said he wanted an explanation.

"She is an Australian citizen. Four years have gone, they have ruined her life," he said. "We were really afraid that she would be found dead." *With AP report*

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96 junior officers . . .

From page A1

President Macapágal-Arroyo to grant amnesty to the 96 junior officers who led what the Feliciano Commission described as a "well-planned" power grab at the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in Makati.

"Can't we find it in our hearts to pardon [them]?" the opposition senator said at a meeting of political party leaders yesterday at the Manila Hotel.

Lim, who filed a bill last September seeking amnesty for the Magdalo group, said the officers deserved pardon because they protected and defended the country's interest "during their time."

"We're knocking on the hearts of her excellency and the top brass of the military to consider this proposal, and the political parties to give them a second chance," he said, adding:

"These officers fought with courage. Some of them are recipients of eight Gold Cross medals while fighting the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) or some undesirable elements in Mindanao."

Wrong signal

Perreras said the 184 enlisted men might be released "within the week," with the prosecutors posing no objection to the military court's recommendation for their immediate release.

But at the House, certain lawmakers lamented the verdict.

Rep. Vincent Garcia (NPC, Davao City), vice chair of the committee on national defense, and Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur), vice chair of the committee on good government, expressed apprehension that the rule of law may have been compromised.

Garcia said the tribunal's decision to demote but reinstate the soldiers could send the wrong signal to the men in uniform and the public they are sworn to protect.

Rep. Joel Virador of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna said the sentence on the soldiers—demotion by three ranks, forfeiture of two-thirds of their basic salaries for three to six months, and confinement with hard labor for a year—was a mere [slap on the wrist].

"That's not enough," Virador said. He said some quarters would want the Magdalo group's outright dismissal from the service.

He also said "meaningful reforms" must be made in the Armed Forces.

Lesson to be learned

Garcia and Cagas acknowledged that the tribunal's recommendation for the enlisted men's immediate release was a result of the plea bargaining allowed in military court proceedings.

"[But] they should be thankful for the chance given to them to go back to active service. They should learn their lesson to resist being used by those into military adventurism," Garcia said.

He also said the soldiers should follow the proper procedures to ventilate their grievances.

Cagas said the soldiers should recognize that they would not suffer the full wrath of the law because the military court's verdict was in line with the Arroyo administration's call for reconciliation based on justice.

Nevertheless, he said, the verdict should serve as a lesson not only to the Magdalo group but also to other soldiers who might be tempted to support military adventurism.

Garcia called on AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu to fast-track reforms and address the legitimate grievances of men and women in uniform.

He said he was dismayed that Abu was prioritizing a cosmetic makeover of Camp Aguinaldo instead of focusing on projects that would alleviate the living conditions of soldiers and their families.

Accompanying warning

Senator Lim said the proposed grant of amnesty to the mutiny leaders should be accompanied by a warning that another such action would result in harsher penalties.

"We should warn them that if they do this again, they would be put behind bars for a lifetime ... Or if they commit this mistake again, they would be shot," he said, eliciting laughter from political leaders.

Lim recalled that the government had granted amnesty to certain people, including the group of former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who as a military officer led failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s, and communist rebels.

"We might be charged with discrimination," Lim said. "Why are we being soft on others, but hard on these people who defended and protected the interest of the country during their time?"

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he was inclined to support Lim's call.

He raised the need for "a general amnesty program for the insurgents of the Left and the Right," which, he said, could be initiated by the President jointly with Congress.

Detained since 2003

On July 27, 2003, about 300 soldiers led by junior officers mostly from the elite Army Special Forces occupied the Oakwood building of serviced apartments and rigged the area with explosives.

They demanded the resignation of the President, then defense chief Angelo Reyes, then police chief Hermogenes Ebdane and then military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus for alleged corruption.

After a 20-hour standoff and negotiations, the officers and men surrendered. They had been detained since then.

The soldiers, the 67 junior officers and 29 core group of coup plotters were court-martialed separately.

The 67 junior officers were charged with violation of four Articles of War: 63 (disrespect to the President); 64 (disrespect to superior officers); 67 (mutiny), and 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman).

Except mutiny

If they enter into a plea bargain, they could plead guilty to all charges except mutiny, which is punishable by death or life imprisonment.

The 29 core leaders, on the other hand, were charged only with violation of Article 96 because they had been charged with coup d'etat in the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Under the plea bargain, the 184 soldiers pleaded guilty to three lesser charges of violation of Articles of War 63, 64 and 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military conduct), while the main charge of mutiny was dropped.

Mayor still suspect in Agustin slay

From page A1

tan, Aurora police director, said Agustin, 54, reportedly duped some 400 families in deals covering the sale of land at the Dingalan Bay View Subdivision in Barangay Umiray, more than 20 km south of the town proper.

He was reportedly a sales agent for the estate owned by the Buencamino family in the village at the boundary of Dingalan town and General Nakar in Quezon where the company Green Circle Properties and Resources is developing a 28,000-hectare Pacific Coast City, an economic zone approved during the term of former President Joseph Estrada.

Beachfront houses and resorts have sprouted there over the past 10 years.

Reached by phone in Dingalan, Pabustan said the deals did not materialize, likely enraging those who had bought property in the subdivision.

Pabustan said he had started interviewing some complainants in estafa cases filed against Agustin, the sixth Filipino journalist slain this year.

Not true

Dingalan Councilor Valentino Lapuz, who described Agustin as his "best friend," said the publisher was not involved in the land scam.

"That's impossible. I knew his activities here. I know the man," Lapuz said in a phone interview. "He did not cheat people."

Lapuz said the investigation should focus on Mayor Jaime Ylarde and not on anything else.

Rosebelle (not Roseville, as earlier reported) Cruz, Agustin's daughter, called the land scam angle "impossible" because this was not true.

Cruz acknowledged that her father had helped the Buencamino family sell parts of the property in 1988.

"Between then and now, he had received no threats or complaints. Why would the police and Mayor Ylarde bring up the issue now?" she asked.

Special edition

About four hours before the killing, the publisher arrived in the coastal town, bringing 500 copies of his newsweekly's special edition.

Starline's May 2-8 issue carried stories on alleged irregularities in the use of calamity funds, missing relief goods and logs dislodged by landslides late last year, the slow resettlement of more than 1,000 families left homeless by the disaster, and the transfer to the cockpit of the slaughterhouse's roof. The cockpit was rebuilt ahead of the houses and damaged public infrastructure.

The disaster, considered the worst to hit Dingalan, left 135 people dead and 56 missing.

Ylarde has denied having hand in the killing. He admitted though that Agustin was one of his staunchest critics.

Planning to sue

Prior to the killing, Ylarde said he had planned to sue Agustin for libel. Ylarde said he had not dropped the plan but would direct charges against Agustin's "accomplices," who included politicians. He did not name them.

Relatives of Agustin also blamed Ylarde and other local officials hurt by his stories for the murder.

Two weeks before the killing, Nenita Mendoza said her elder brother had left town reportedly to escape the wrath of Ylarde. Last week, she said two men were seen surveilling her house and the house of Cruz.

The killing took place in Cruz's house before midnight Tuesday while Agustin was preparing to eat dinner.

Mendoza also said there was no truth to the reports on the land scam.

Palad said the Department of Justice had been asked to provide copies of estafa cases reportedly filed against Agustin.

Asked why residents unhappy with the land deals would seek revenge on Agustin and time this with the airing of criticism against the mayor, Palad said the task force was "unearthing everything."

Palad said Pabustan had been ordered to inspect the guns of all licensed gun owners in Dingalan, a coastal town of some 40,000 people.

Lomibao asked to quit

In the Senate, two senators yesterday called for the resignation of PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao following the murder of Agustin.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said Lomibao should have the decency to quit if he could not put a stop to the killing of journalists.

Sen. Ramon Revilla, chair of the Senate committee on mass media and information, said Lomibao should hunt down the killers of journalists or leave his post.

Cantoneros killing

Little by little, the police are gaining ground in their effort to identify the killers of broadcaster Klein Cantoneros. He was shot dead on May 4 in Pagadian City.

The police disclosed yesterday that a second person had decided to cooperate with them.

The witness reportedly saw the murder from afar. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto*

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Ramos sisters: Victim, suspect, witness

HOT SALE
A VENDOR sells umbrella hats for P100 each while another sells cold bottled water to motorists in Manila. The metropolis recently experienced temperature highs of 38 degrees Celsius. AP

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ONE WOULD be a respondent, the other a witness.

Two sisters of murdered diplomat Alicia Ramos would be on opposite sides of justice when they appear before state prosecutors next week.

Ramos' eldest sister, Ester Bailey, and her youngest sibling, Leticia, have been subpoenaed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the preliminary investigation on the diplomat's killing.

Ester and Leticia are expected to appear at the DOJ next Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to explain the circumstances behind the death of Ramos, state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco told a press briefing at the Makati City Hall yesterday.

Bailey, a 65-year-old widow with three children, was identified by another suspect as the one who ordered the April 24 burglary of her sister's house on 5552 Boyle Street, Barangay Palanan, in Makati City. The burglary was allegedly meant to only scare Ramos.

But the early morning ploy ended in the death of the 64-year-old career diplomat, who suffocated to death after the burglars tied a piece of cloth around her mouth and nose.

"Ester is officially considered a respondent," Velasco said.

"We are inviting her to attend the preliminary investigation... for her to explain her side," he added.

Treating the youngest Ramos as the lone eyewitness in the slay, the justice department will ask Leticia to narrate what happened between 5:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. of April 24, when Alicia was killed.

"We have to clarify, because in her statement to the police, she did not mention anything about Ester... but all the while (Bailey) was living with them in the house on and off, whenever she was brought out of the hospital," said Velasco.

According to Velasco, Bailey stayed at the Palanan house with her two sisters whenever she was released from St. Clare's Medical Center, where she has been confined from time to time for manic depression.

She was tagged by suspect Roberto Lumagui, the Ramoses' handyman who had confessed recruiting three other men to carry out Bailey's alleged order to terrorize Alicia.

But investigators are skeptical of Lumagui's allegation.

"We are not taking his word hook, line and sinker," said Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

"It might just be a ploy to extricate himself, an afterthought," Dolina said.

Given the supposed condition of Ester, there was good reason to doubt Lumagui, the top-ranking investigator said.

Ester's psychiatrist, Dr. Rene Yat, had described her as frail, diabetic, "manic depressive and has constant mood swings."

"What was her (Ester's) moral authority over him (Lumagui)?" Dolina said. "(Given her condition), why would he follow her? It might be just an afterthought meant to save himself." *With Luige A. del Puerto*

Money matters root of MMDA woes

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NOW IT can be told.

One of the roots of the disagreements of some mayors with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair is money, a local chief executive said.

"Using the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket (MTT) as strategy, the MMDA receives all fees collected from traffic violations from all cities and municipalities," said Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco.

Under the MTT, the local government gets 20 percent of the fines while 80 percent stays with the MMDA to cover administrative costs and the salaries of traffic enforcers.

But after a Makati court ruled that the MTT was illegal, the MMDA would no longer be allowed to retain any amount derived from the traffic violation penalties, Tiangco said.

"Whatever our enforcers collect should go to the coffers of the local government," the mayor said.

He added that despite the court's ruling, Fernando still wanted all local governments to use the MTT and the MMDA to retain its share of the fines.

Tiangco said he decided to reveal the reason behind the MTT controversy when Fernando started accusing mayors of usurpation of authority.

"The court already ruled that the MTT is illegal. Why would Bayani now accuse us of usurpation of authority?" Tiangco said.

Fernando is also reportedly proposing that mayors use the MMDA ticketing system and act as deputies for the agency.

Tiangco said the MMDA chair suggested the move in a meeting last Thursday after the court declared the MTT illegal.

Tiangco said he, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio voiced opposition to the suggestion.

Accused in 12-year-old bank robbery acquitted, released

By DJ Yap

AN ACCUSED in the 12-year-old robbery of then Equitable Banking Corp. on Quezon Avenue has been acquitted for lack of evidence and ordered released by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

Branch 81 Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao found Baldomero Quintela not guilty of robbery-in-band.

1993 robbery

Baldomero was accused of conspiring with several others to rob the Equitable Bank branch at 151 Quezon Avenue cor. Speaker Perez Street in Barangay Sta. Teresita on June 4, 1993.

The accused, who was arrested in 2002 in Tanza, Cavite, and who had been detained at the Quezon City jail, was tagged as a member of the so-called Paracale Gang of bank robbers.

P600,000 loot

On that date, armed men entered the bank and disarmed the security guards before carting away P664,800, according to the case information.

In a three-page decision, Yadao said the prosecution failed to prove its case after presenting only one witness, a policeman who testified that Quintela was pointed out by one of the bank tellers as one of the suspects.

For his defense, Quintela told the court that he had never lived in Metro Manila.

In March 2000, another QC-RTC branch found Quintela's co-accused Rafael Francisco guilty of robbery and sentenced him to a minimum of four years and a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.

The case of another co-accused, Armando de Jesus who died in 1997, was dismissed.

At the time that Francisco and De Jesus' cases were being heard, Quintela was still at large.

Call center training offered in Mandaluyong university

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF YOU dream of working in a call center, you may want to check out the Rizal Technological University first.

The university is pioneering a call center training course this July, Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales told the INQUIRER yesterday.

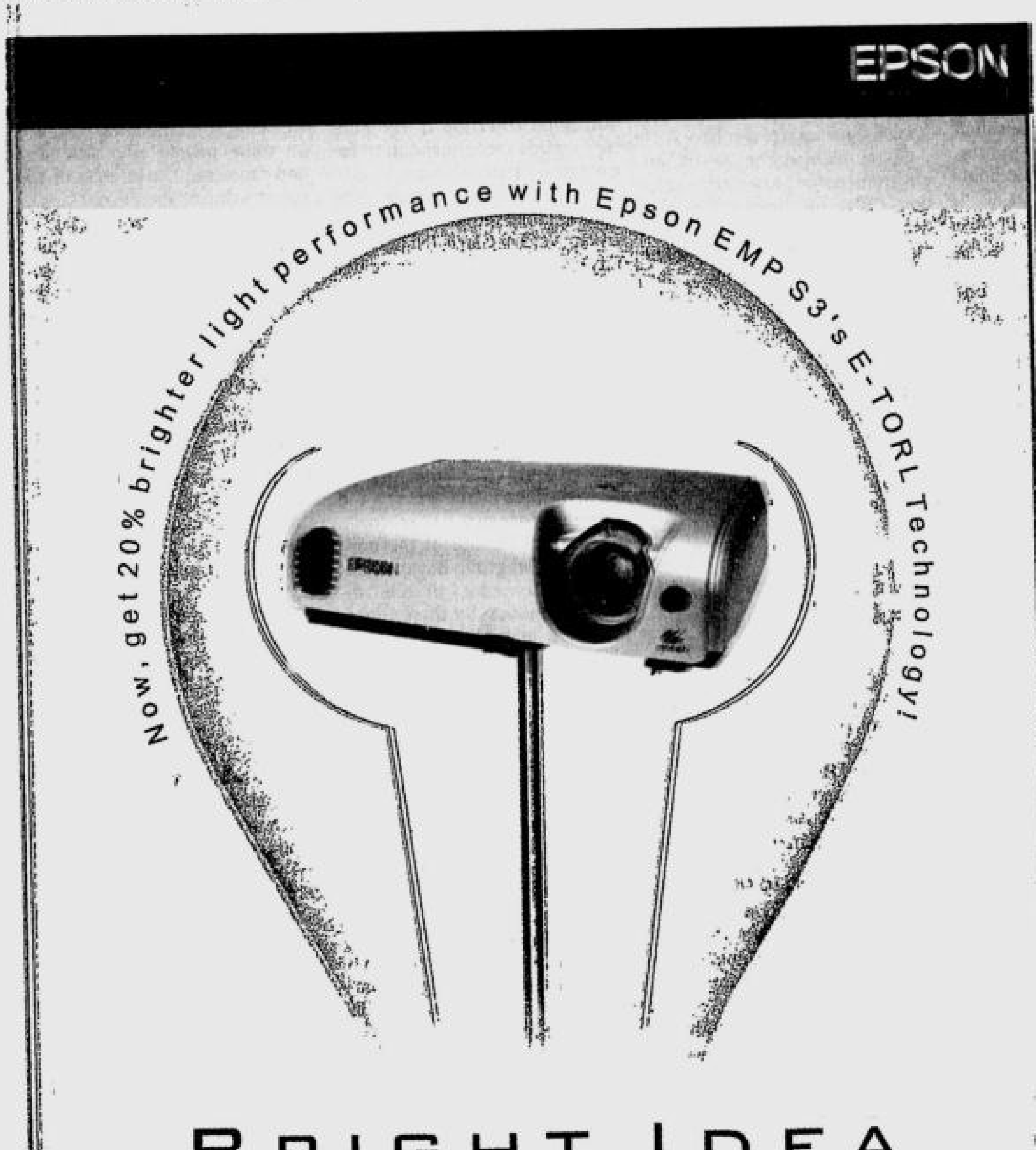
The course will run for three months. Subjects will be taught in special speech laboratories.

"We thought of offering this course because many companies chose to build call centers in our city," Gonzales said.

Attending a call center training course could give an applicant the edge, he said.

But sorry, the course is initially open to Mandaluyong City residents only.

Gonzales said the city government was now in the process of acquiring computers for the speech laboratory, which would also provide a simulated call center office.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DRIVE INTENSIFIED

Fake name brand shoes seized in Pasay

By Leila B. Salaverria

ONE HUNDRED million pesos worth of rubber shoes carrying fake name brand labels were seized by Bureau of Customs (BOC) agents during a raid at a Pasay City building the other day.

The shoes, which came mostly from China, carried the names of expensive brands like Nike, adidas, Diesel, Reebok, Converse and World Balance, but were sold for just a tenth of the original's price.

BOC Commissioner Alberto Lina issued a warrant of seizure and detention for the counterfeit items after the owners of the goods failed to produce importation papers and receipts for tax and duties payments.

The shoes, kept in 52 stalls inside a five-story building along Capt. Ambo Street, Pasay City, were discovered after BOC agents conducted surveillance operations in the area.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Celso Templo said the BOC is strengthening its drive against Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) law violators because the United States wants the Philippines to vigorously implement the law before it agrees to remove the country from its watch list.

To show the BOC's sincerity in going after IPR violators and smugglers, Templo said charges would be filed against the owners of the fake goods. The names of the owners and the persons involved in the illegal shipment were withheld pending further investigation and the filing of charges against them.

The bureau had also been conducting a drive against smuggled and counterfeit goods following complaints from manufacturers of original brands who were losing heavily in the face of competition from fake products.

Major Butch Tibayan of the customs police said it was easy to tell the counterfeit from the original because the former was of inferior quality.

Customs agents earlier seized P10 million worth of shoes carrying fake Reebok labels from another warehouse in Pasay City.

Passport services in Makati

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NEED a passport or want to renew your old one?

Visit the Makati City Hall tomorrow when it opens its doors to applicants. The service is aimed at giving the public an alternative venue to secure a passport.

From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the city government will host personnel from the Department of Foreign Affairs who will offer mobile passport services for those living in and out of the city at the ground floor of the new Makati City Hall building.

"We have been doing this for five years now as a public service. We serve an average of 1,500 residents every year," said city administrator Nicanor Santiago Jr.

City Hall gives this service twice a year: once in May and in November, the birth month of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The passports are redeemed one week later at the Makati City Hall.

Muntinlupa 'trackers' to monitor drug pushers

By Fran Katigbak

DRUG pushers may not have an easy time plying their trade in Muntinlupa City once barangay officials finish a training program aimed at tracking them down swiftly and effectively.

Organized by the Drug Abuse and Prevention Office headed by Chito Valerio, the training is one feature of a tracker system that monitors and documents drug cases in the city.

The two-day program includes seminars on surveillance and undercover investigation, handling evidence, and writing investigation reports, as well as lectures on the legal aspect of drug cases.

Resource persons for the training include city prosecutors and officers of the Philippine National Police.

Quezon City worker dies defending pet monkey

By DJ Yap

A CONSTRUCTION worker yesterday tried to defend his pet monkey from a co-worker who wanted to harm the animal, but lost his life in the process.

Eduardo Patugalan, 28, was having a drink early yesterday morning with Joel Zamora at Ascension Road, Barangay Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City when Zamora suddenly tried to stab the victim's monkey with a bladed weapon, police said.

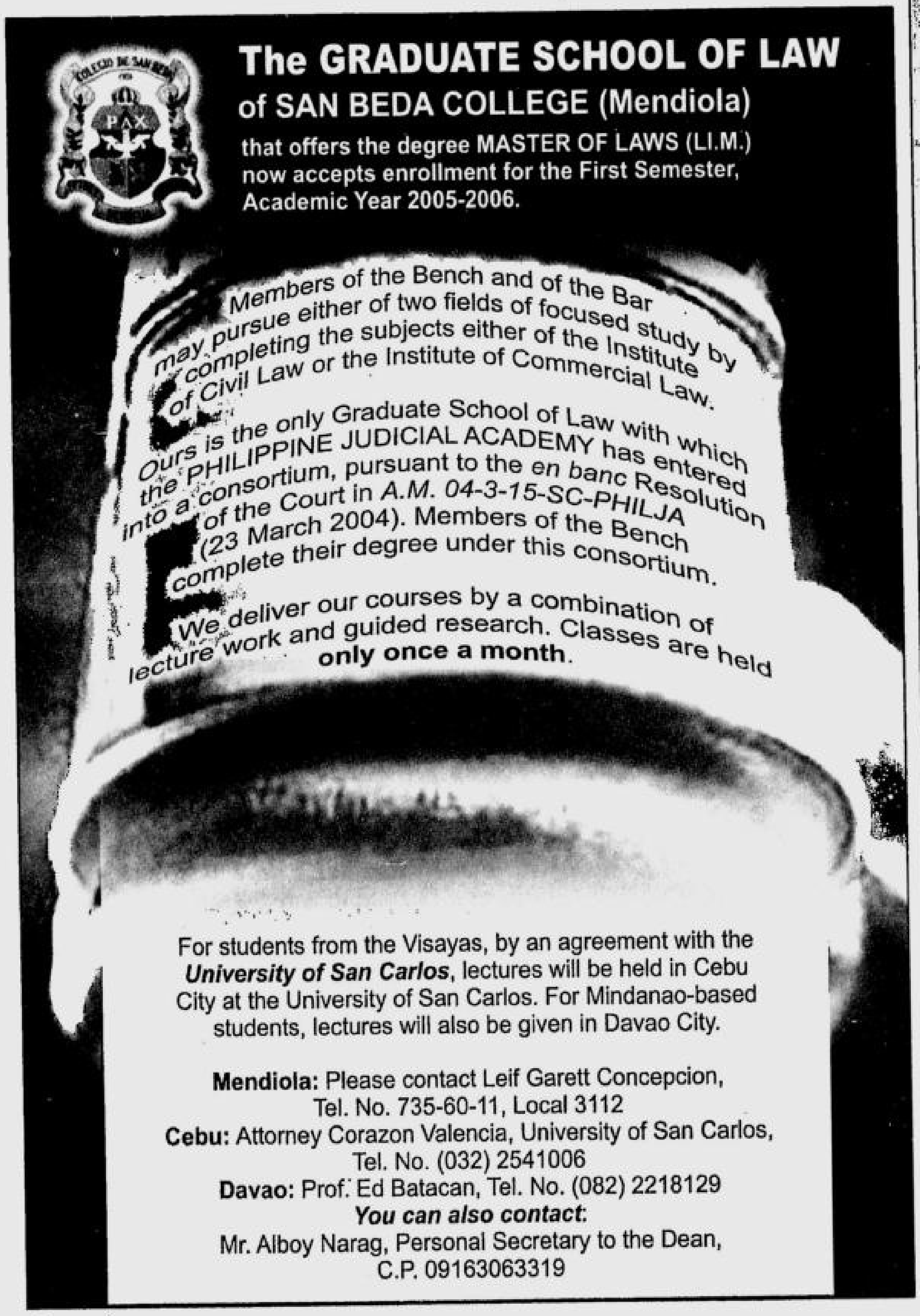
Patugalan tried to stop Zamora, 20, from hurting his pet, but the latter only got irked.

After a heated argument, Zamora grabbed his weapon and stabbed Patugalan repeatedly, police added.

The victim was rushed to the hospital, but died soon after. The suspect is still at large.

It was not immediately clear what happened to Patugalan's monkey.

At about the same time, Avelino Aycardo and Joel Cariño were gunned down by still unidentified assailants in Forest Hill Subdivision, Barangay Gulod, Novaliches.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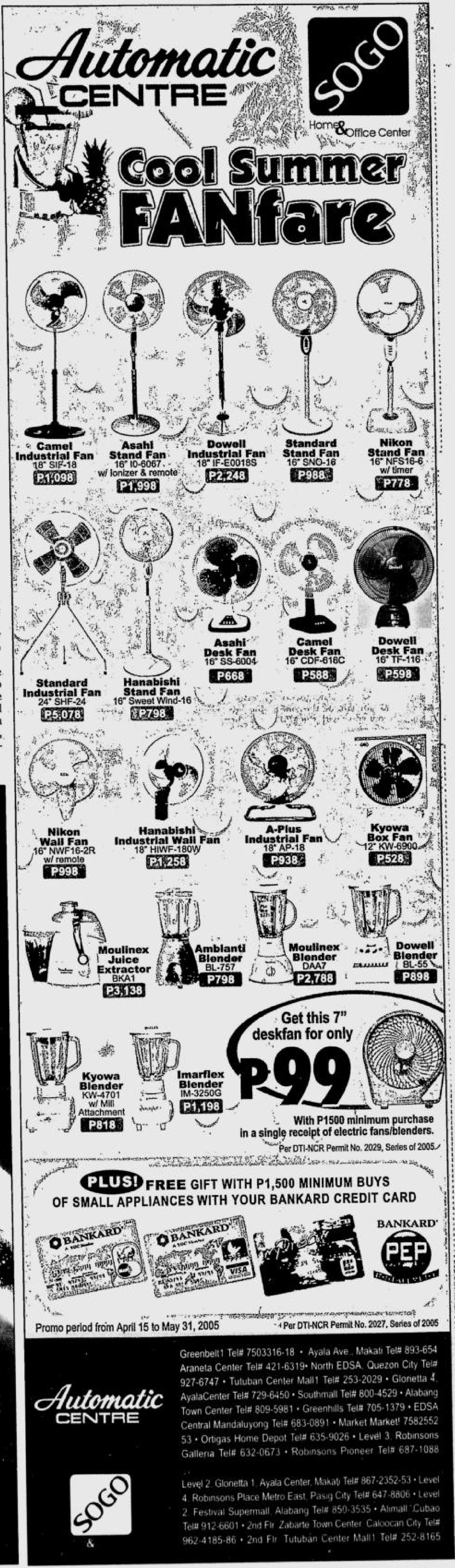
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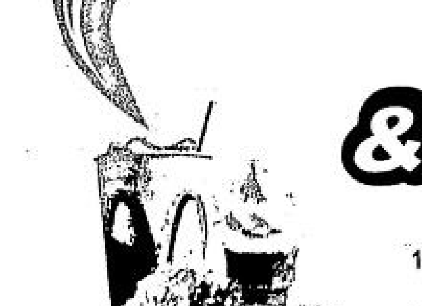

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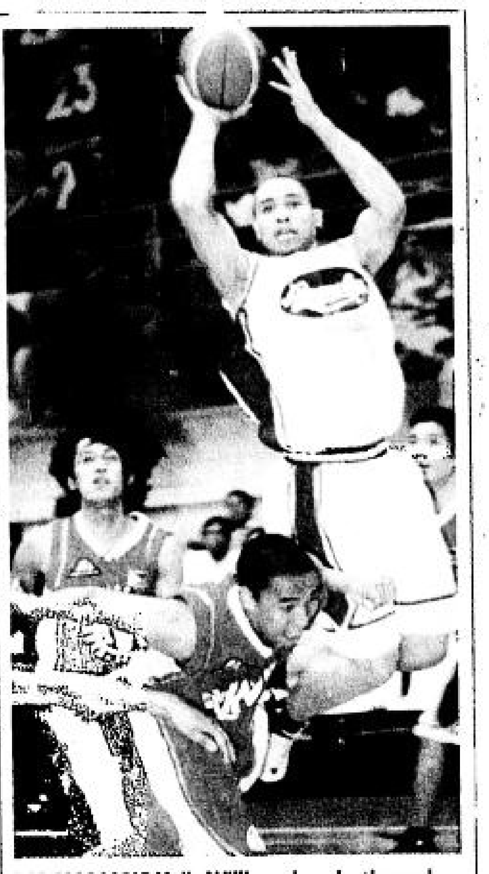

MAGNOLIA'S Kelly Williams breaks through Nenaco's defensive phalanx to unload a shot in yesterday's PBL match at the Pasig Sports Center. See *Story on A26.* AUGUST DELA CRUZ

'UNFOUNDED' ALLEGATIONS

Chot lashes back at BAP

By Musong R. Castillo

NATIONAL coach Chot Reyes yesterday branded as "unfounded" accusations by a ranking Basketball Association of the Philippines official that the BAP was not consulted on the formation of the new RP pool.

The outspoken PBA coach stressed that he does not want to be involved in a media war, but made it clear that he met with BAP vice president Christian Tan twice and the BAP-appointed national coach Boysie Zamar before naming the new aspirants for the Seaba (Southeast Asian Basketball Association) squad.

"Unfortunately, Mr. (Filomeno "Boy") Codiñera was not in those meetings," Reyes said.

Codiñera had accused the POC basketball committee of bypassing the BAP in crucial decisions regarding the Seaba squad, and singled out Reyes for ignoring the amateur caging body.

Reyes sought the INQUIRER to air his side. He said he met with Tan on April 26, a day after the second caging summit, before meeting with Zamar later that day.

He said former Asian Games coaches Norman Black and Tim Cone were with him and Zamar when he filled the pool of aspirants in the evening of that same day.

The second meeting with Tan took place at The Dome in the Podium on April 28, where the BAP official assured him of the BAP board's cooperation.

"Mr. Tan told me, '*Pag ikaw ang coach sa* Seaba, *wala kang problema. Sagot ko* board *ko* [If you're the Seaba coach, you'll have no problem. I'll take care of the BAP board],'" Reyes quoted Tan as telling him.

Reyes also said he made it a point to talk to the BAP and its officials first and is wondering why his name is being dragged into the mess.

"I'm only here to coach as mandated by the PBA and the POC basketball committee," said Reyes, who was handpicked by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco to form a new RP team in his capacity as chair of the basketball committee.

Meanwhile, the BAP sought the help of POC chair Robert Aventajado in a bid to ease the POC threat to withdraw its recognition of the caging body as basketball's national sports association. BAP's insistence on fielding its own team to the Seaba with Zamar as coach violates its deal with the caging committee, the POC said.

Realtors send Tigers deeper in the cellar

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:45 p.m.—Shell vs Talk 'N Text
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull Barako

LUCENA—Paolo Mendoza and Kenneth Duremdes keyed a Sta. Lucia Realty blitz in the final period as the Realtors hammered out a 76-63 win over the Coca-Cola Tigers in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Quezon Convention Center.

Mendoza unloaded three triples in the pivotal period while Duremdes made six straight points in a searing run that enabled the Realtors to chalk up their eighth win in 15 games.

The Tigers hit rock bottom in the standings after absorbing their ninth loss in 14 outings.

Ginebra snapped its six-game skid with a 78-74 victory over San Miguel Beer in the second game. The Beermen dropped to 8-6 while the Kings improved to 6-8.

Mark Sanford and Ali Peek registered double-double figures for the Tigers.

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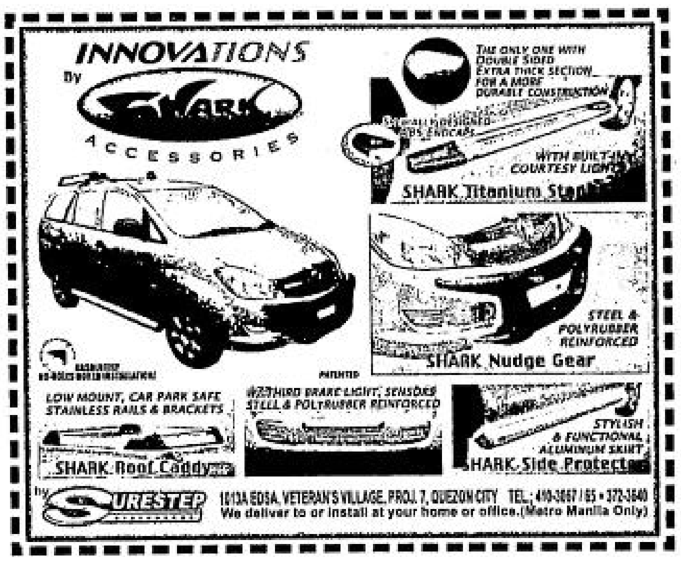

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Calabarzon closes in on NCR as Borja, Chavez rule

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ILOILO CITY—Calabarzon struck in several fronts yesterday to close in on leader National Capital Region even as a trackster and a swimmer from Laguna took the competition by storm with multiple gold harvests in the Palarong Pambansa at the Iloilo Sports Complex here.

A brief rainshower provided relief to the more than 5,000 sun-burnt student-athletes, and the Calabarzon bets exploited it to shine in elementary taekwondo, table tennis, swimming, kids' baseball and athletics.

Twelve-year-old tanker Banjo Borja and 16-year-old runner Jasmine Chavez spearheaded Calabarzon's charge and became the most bemedalled athletes in their respective disciplines so far.

Borja, who studies at the Liceo de San Pablo, captured his fifth and sixth gold medals in elementary swimming, a feat rivaled only by NCR's Ryan Arabejo who registered his second record-breaking performance in secondary competitions also at the pool.

Chavez snatched her third gold, this time in the girls' 100m hurdles, the most by a track and field athlete. She topped the century dash and the 400m hurdles earlier.

GOLD medalist Ram Zotomayor of Calabarzon in action. JESS YUSON

NCR's medal factory sputtered on Day 4, but the Big City bets remained at the helm with 37 golds, 23 silvers and 27 bronzes.

Calabarzon, which stands for Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon, now has a 32-23-15 count, while host Western Visayas is a far third with 15-17-23. Central Visayas (8-12-17) and Northern Mindanao (7-6-1) round up the top five.

"I got inspired when I saw Lydia de Vega," said Chavez referring to the great sprinter who works with the meet's technical staff.

The 5-foot-2 Chavez, a fresh graduate from the Pedro Guevarra National High School, clocked 15.7 seconds for the 100m hurdles, 0.8 second slower than the 1996 mark of Michelle Patasaha of Western Mindanao.

Angelito Pereyra snared Calabarzon's other field gold by topping the elementary boys' javelin.

In table tennis, Calabarzon claimed three of the four golds at stake as Nico Paulo Cruz (elementary boys' singles), Martin Diaz (secondary boys' singles) and Casandra Bazaar (secondary girls' singles) dominated their respective events. Only Ian Lariba of Northern Mindanao escaped the onslaught with a victory in the elementary girls singles.

The region also kicked its way to success in elementary taekwondo, bagging three golds through Ynah Bonifacio, Cyrus John Alejo and R-Jay del Rosario.

But NCR countered through Israel Escoro and Bellarmino Ulidan. Western Visayas also snared two golds through Jean Santillan and Hannah Marie Hubag.

Taekwondo's other winners were Central Visayas' Jesset Paglinawan, Cordillera Autonomous Region's Deborah Alacar and Zamboanga Peninsula's Anthony Alfred Pasion.

The gold in children's baseball—worth 25 points under the new point system —went to Calabarzon, which edged NCR, 3-2, in the finals.

Wizards find gem; HC scores

By Musong R. Castillo

LIKE mannah from heaven.

Kenny Williams gave struggling Magnolia something to look forward to in its defense of the PBL Unity Cup as he powered the Ice Cream Wizards past Nenaco-San Beda, 100-64, yesterday at the Pasig Sports Center.

Williams, a former University of Detroit mainstay, scored 11 of his 15 points in the breakaway third period as Magnolia turned an eight-point halftime lead into a 78-48 bubble that proved too big for the Red Lions to burst.

GAMES TOMORROW (*JCSGO Gym, Cubao*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Nenaco-SBC
4 p.m.— Bacchus Energy vs Toyota Oils

"*Hulog siya ng langit sa amin* (He's heaven-sent)," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal of the 6-foot-5 Williams, who was tapped by national coach Chot Reyes to join the RP five pool.

Harbour Centre hacked out an 89-67 thumping of Toyota Otis-Letran in a highly-physical second game.

The Port Masters move closer to an outright semifinal seat with their seventh victory games.

The game was halted for several minutes with less than four minutes left after personnel from both benches emptied.

Toyota coach Louie Alas and Harbour Centre assistant Dindo Pumaren got into a finger-pointing match at midcourt after Port Master Gabby Espinas and Letran's Ronjay Enrile got tangled up.

The scores:

First Game

MAGNOLIA 100—Williams 15, Calli 13, Santos 10, Miranda 8, Raneses 8, Chan 7, Rizada 7, Yabut 6, Co 5, Cutler 3, Garcia 2, Caceres 2, Isip 2.

NENACO 64—Aljamal 23, Baldivia 11, Javier 6, Hudencial 5, Bombeo 5, Timonera 4, Angeles 3, Fasano 2, de Guzman 2, Razon 2, Cruz 1, Antonio 0, Arbola 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 43-35, 73-48, 100-64

Second Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 89—Cardona 20, Tenorio 17, Espinas 9, Mendoza 7, Sanz 7, Mesinas 6, Gaco 5, Gatumbato 5, Membrere 4, Castro 3, Dizon 2, Chongson 2.

TOYOTA OTIS 67—Macapagal 13, Capati 11, Daa 8, Pinera 8, Enrile 4, Alcaraz 4, Coronel 3, Alonzo 3, Mondragon 3, Oreta 2, Larong 2, Tagupa 2, Andaya 2, Bautista 2.

Quarters: 29-19, 47-26, 70-50, 89-67

Realtors send . . .

From page A25

Meanwhile, Shell hopes new import Ajani Williams could compensate for the absence of three key players when it tangles with Talk 'N Text today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Unable to complete their papers, Tony Dela Cruz, Kalani Ferreria and Chris Jackson will remain in the sidelines in the Turbochargers' 4:45 p.m. clash with the Phone Pals. *June Navarro*

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 76—Fletcher 22, Duremdes 11, Mendoza 10, Tolomia 9, Espino 8, Calimag 8, Omolon 6, Demape 2, Santos 0.

COCA-COLA 63—Sanford 21, Peek 19, Arigo 17, Abarrientos 5, Juinio 2, Avenido 1, Singson 0, Bacani 0, Chia 0.

Quarters: 16-23, 37-32, 50-49, 76-63

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Corrales wins world crown via a sleepwalk

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THIS is not Miss Saigon, not Streisand in Concert, so what's the point doing it again?

The prizefight masterpiece must instead be preserved.

If they finally decide to choose a Hall-of-Fame fight, other than enshrine only great boxers, the Corrales-Castillo lightweight title thrilla in Las Vegas on Sunday should be an automatic frontrunner.

No encore, no rematch please.

Diego Corrales was incredible, lending delirium and delight to the sport that's always ready to embrace genuine heroes.

An original, Corrales did not only rise from the grave to author what could be the most incredible resurrection in the history of modern-day boxing.

He fought—and won—by defying popular practice.

***

He suffered a second knockdown in a span of less than half a minute.

Corrales did not look like he could ever snap back from painful slumber.

How he managed to jump on his feet after referee Tony Weeks tolled "Nine," provides the crazy core behind the greatest turnaround in the sport.

Nothing of that mesmerizing sort had been seen inside the main ring before, and fans in Mandalay Bay all the way to the coroner's offices in Vegas were justified in having suspected a miracle or a magical trick.

The Redeemer took three days to rise from the dead.

Diego Corrales? All he had needed was a few extra seconds while his corner restored his lost mouthpiece to complete the incredible feat.

He was slapped a point deduction because he had already dropped his mouth guard after a first knockdown only a few seconds earlier.

His face was discolored, puffed like that of a drowning victim.

But Corrales suddenly exploded and rattled off killer combinations to stop Jose Luis Castillo and register a surreal stoppage.

***

Hold it. Castillo, stablemate of Erik "El Terrible" Morales, deserved equal praise for that unforgettable fight.

In fact, the peppery Mexican had appeared the more crafty and competent of the two protagonists.

There was no CompuStats feed to local media of the number of punches landed.

But the combined solid blows scored by the durable duo, from the starting bell to the shocking finish, could've wiped out an entire city police force.

Castillo, himself often dazed, was visibly set to jump up and celebrate after he had floored Corales a second time in the 10th round.

Actually, after reeling through the pure impact of their respective punches, Castillo and Corrales had appeared to be fighting on a different plain.

They often glided like sleepwalkers, boxing on sheer instinct.

But Corrales survived and inexplicably snared victory because he was the better, sharper somnambulist.

***

Not known to many local boxing fans before Sunday, Corrales now goes down into legend.

They had never seen anybody of his strange sort before, a lanky slugger capturing a world boxing crown via a sleepwalk.

Corrales, much taller, crouched and stayed low, a stance that had experts and plain fans grimacing in disbelief.

This was generally regarded as stupid: playing into the turf of the opponent, when the wiser practice was to box outside and use the height edge to good advantage.

Castillo was clearly a competent brawler, fine model of the slew of fighters churned out by Mexico's hero-rich boxing factory.

Lust in his breath, Castillo was moving in for the kill when Corrales ripped him with a left to the jaw.

The Mexican withdrew, but Corrales was on top again, now spearing combinations with deathly authority.

**

Everything happened very fast, Castillo would explain half-complaining.

He said he thought referee Tony Weeks had stopped the fight too early.

Of course, not. The competent official did perfectly right to save Castillo, now sagging senseless, from death or total paralysis.

No way to tell how many cocktails all over the world had been spilled at that magical moment.

The last time the world must've shrieked in happy disbelief was in 1974, when Muhammad Ali, an awful underdog, stopped George Foreman in the 8th round of their world heavyweight championship rumble in Africa.

That event of events paved the way for the Thrilla in Manila the following year.

Ali reaffirmed his greatness by stopping Joe Frazier in that 1975 classic at the Big Dome which, everybody swore, could never be repeated.

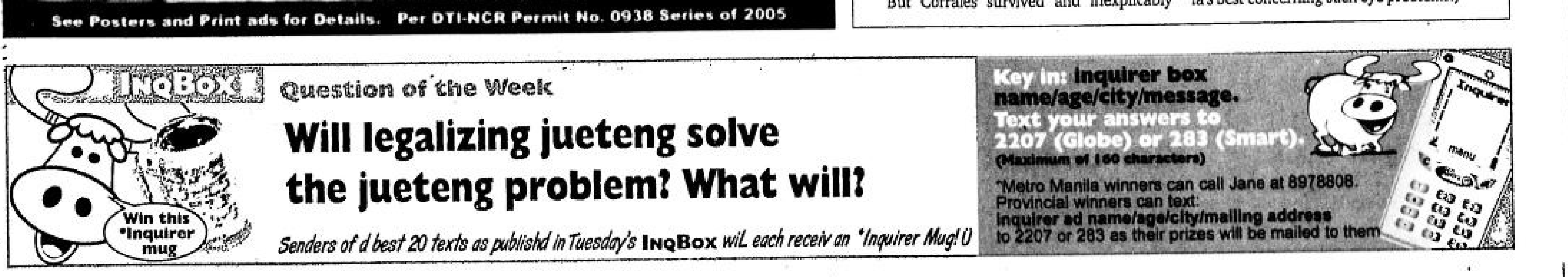
So why this instant clamor for Diego Corrales to box Jose Luis Castillo again?

Why not Erik Morales, who said he would turn full lightweight, taking on Corrales instead?

Did they like Da Vinci to do another Mona Lisa, or Ernest Hemingway to rewrite the Old Man and the Sea?

***

(PASASALAMAT: Maria Fely Canlas-Trinidad would like to extend her sincerest gratitude to Dr. Ildefonso Chan who operated on her left eye due to a detached retina recently. Dr. Chan is reputed to be one of Manila's best concerning such eye problems.)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Crack foreign field coming for RP Open

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LIPA CITY—The international field will be well represented in the 89th Philippine Open at Club Malarayat next week, with a crack roster of Thai stars led by Thaworn Wiratchant out to deny the Filipinos in their national professional championship.

The absence of superstar Thongchai Jaidee in Asia's oldest golf tournament hardly puts a dent on the chances of the Thais with Wiratchant leading a 10-man team in the chase for the top prize of $31,500, up from $24,000 last year.

A five-time winner in the Asian Tour, including last month's Jakarta Standard Chartered Indonesian Open, Wiratchant is second behind Jaidee in the Order of Merit with $262,656 in earnings this year, just $7,000 behind his compatriot.

The 38-year-old veteran, winner of the 1987 Southeast Asian Games individual gold, will be joined in the Thai contingent by other notables such as Boonchu Ruangkit, Prom Meesawat and former junior star Wisut Artjanawat.

Defending champion Edward Michaels is not on the initial roster, leaving Anthony Kang, the winner here in 1999 and Andrew Pitts, the former Acer Taiwan Open champ, to banner the traditionally strong American charge.

Sixteenth in earnings all-time with close to $600,000, Pitts has posted 21 career top 10 finishes in the Asian Tour.

Rick Gibson, a Canadian who is married to a Filipino, shoots for his second RP Open title in the event slated May 19-22 at the Malarayat's Mount Makulot and Mount Lubo nines.

A total of 21 Australians, seven Americans, five Koreans and three Japanese made the exempt list.

Angelo Que will try to win his first Open. Former winners Cassius Casas, Gerald Rosales and burly Robert Pactolerin are also in the $200,000 event.

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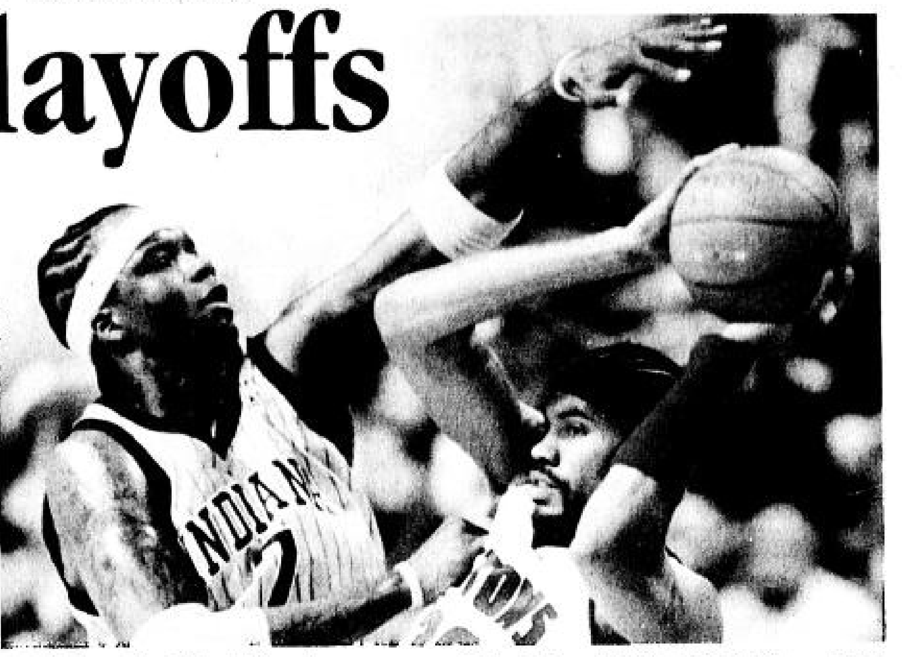
Pacers, Mavs tie playoffs



PACER Jermaine O'Neal (L) applies pressure on Piston Rasheed Wallace in Game 2. REUTERS

TORONTO—Jermaine O'Neal scored 22 points and Jeff Foster pulled down a career-high 20 rebounds as the Indiana Pacers rallied to defeat the Detroit Pistons, 92-83, on Wednesday, leveling their Eastern Conference semifinal at 1-1.

In the day's other playoff game, Dirk Nowitzki nailed a fadeaway jumper with 6.8 seconds remaining to lift the Mavericks to a 108-106 road win over the Phoenix Suns as Dallas squared up their Western Conference semifinal series.

After cruising to an easy 15-point victory in Game One and leading by 10 at the half in Game Two, the Pistons appeared poised to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven series with a pair of home wins.

However, inspired by 15 second half points from Reggie Miller, the Pacers battled back to even the series before the teams shift to Indianapolis for Game Three on Friday.

The defeat was the first in nine home playoff games for the Pistons, dating back to last year's conference finals.

Foster had 14 points to go with his massive rebound haul while O'Neal completed his night with 10 rebounds of his own and five blocks.

Miller finished with 19 points while Stephen Jackson had 13 points and Jamaal Tinsley added 12 points and 12 assists for the Pacers.

"I've been trying for 20 all season so it was nice to do it tonight when we needed a big win," Foster said.

"We came out flat last game but everyone dug deep tonight.

A lot of guys fed off each other and we got the win."

Tayshaun Prince led the defending NBA champions with 24 points, nine rebounds and seven assists while Richard Hamilton and Rasheed Wallace each had 14 points in a losing cause.

The Pacers have made an art of coming back all season, having lost key members of their roster to long suspensions following a regular season brawl with Detroit players and their fans at the Palace at Auburn Hills in November.

Trailing 50-40 at halftime, the Pacers cut the deficit to a single point (69-68) entering the final quarter.

With the lead changing hands at almost every possession, the Pacers finally took control with an 11-0 run to surge 88-77 ahead with 2:30 to play.

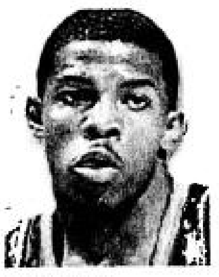
Nowitzki had not scored in the final quarter but made his only successful shot count to send Dallas back home for Game Three on Friday with the best-of-seven series all square at 1-1.

Michael Finley led the Mavericks with a game-high 31 points, including five-for-six from outside the three point arc while Nowitzki finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds.

"We knew we had to come out with energy right from the jump," Finley said. "We did and we got the win." Eric Dampier, criticized by Nowitzki after Dallas' 25-point blowout in Game One, responded with a double-double hitting for 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Amare Stoudemire had 30 points and 16 rebounds for the Suns and NBA MVP Steve Nash chipped in with 23 points and 13 assists. *Reuters*

Johnson to undergo surgery after fall



JOHNSON

PHOENIX—Phoenix guard Joe Johnson fractured a bone near his left eye when he was fouled on a layup with 19.7 seconds left in the first half of Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals between the Suns and the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday.

He was admitted to Good Samaritan Hospital and will undergo surgery on Thursday to repair the displaced bone. He will miss at least Game 3 Friday night in Dallas, the Suns said.

Johnson was fouled hard by Jerry Stackhouse and landed face-first on the America West Arena court. He was treated for several minutes, receiving six stitches to close a cut near his left eye. Referee Dick Bavetta belatedly called it a flagrant foul.

Johnson stayed in the game, looking like a boxer who had just lost a fight, and made one of the two free throws before leaving the game for good.

He was diagnosed with a mild concussion and a fractured orbital bone and was to remain hospitalized overnight. A CAT scan came back negative, the Suns said. *AP*

Toney stripped of WBA crown for steroid abuse

NEW YORK—James Toney tested positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone and was stripped here Wednesday of the victory that made him the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion.

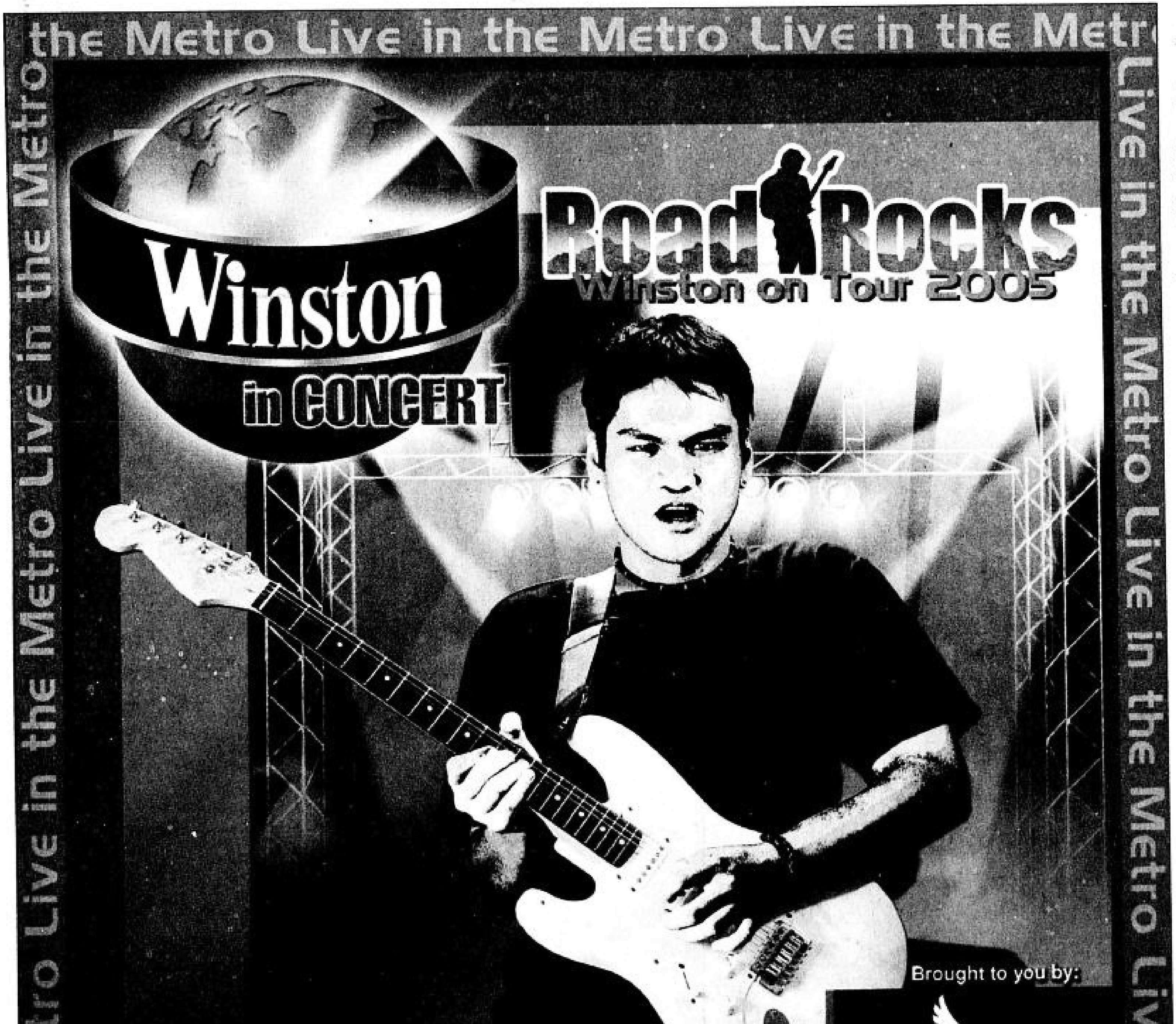
The New York State Athletic Commission ruled that Toney's unanimous 12-round decision over Puerto Rico's John Ruiz here on April 30 is now officially a "no decision" because of Toney's positive post-fight doping test.

Toney was also fined $10,000 and banned from fighting for 90 days. He will lose his crown to Ruiz and will be unable to fight for the WBA heavyweight crown again for two years, although he could seek other heavyweight crowns.

Dan Goossen, promoter for the 36-year-old American fighter, confirmed that Toney tested positive for nandrolone and that there would be no appeal of the punishments.

Goossen claimed medications Toney took to treat injuries that wiped out two prior fights led to the positive test.

Toney's steroid positive comes two weeks after US lawmakers conducted a hearing into steroids in American football and just days after they gave preliminary approval to forming an oversight committee to regulate boxing. *AFP*



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Angry Tiger stalks rivals

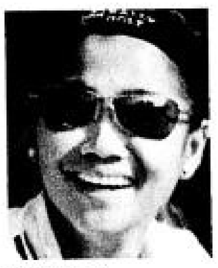
IRVING, Texas—There's an angry Tiger Woods stalking his top rivals starting here Thursday at the $6.2 million PGA Byron Nelson Championship after a mistake that cost him a two-stroke penalty last week.

Masters champion Woods, owning only a .18 lead over Fiji's Vijay Singh in the fight for world number one, must face Singh, Phil Mickelson and South Africans Ernie Els and Retief Goosen in quest of a $1.116 million prize.

Woods was assessed the penalty in the final round of last week's Wachovia Championship when members of the huge gallery watching him moved a picket fence at the 10th hole that was deemed a "temporary immovable obstruction." The two-stroke penalty dropped Woods from ninth to a share of 11 and upset the competitive nature of the American star, a nine-time major champion.

"I played my (rear) off coming in," Woods said. "I eagled 15 and birdied 18 to get a back-door top-10 and when things aren't going well you always want to finish in the top 10. That penalty cost me. *AFP*

Annika heads Jenny's rivals



ROSALES

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia—Sweden's Annika Sorenstam, who saw her LPGA win streak snapped last week at five titles in a row, hopes to begin another run here at the $1.6 million Chick-fil-A Charity Championship.

Sorenstam won here in 2001 and at the year's first major championship, the Kraft Nabisco Championship. She is starting her preparations for next month's two women's majors, LPGA Championship and US Women's Open.

Defending her crown this week is Jennifer Rosales, who fired a final-round seven-under-par 65 to edge four rivals by a single stroke and claim her first LPGA title.

"It was my first win," Rosales said. "Because I won here and it was a pretty good field, it gave me a lot of confidence about my game." *AFP*

RACING TIPS

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Race 1--1. Front Page 2. You and Me 3. Starlet
Race 2--1. Miss Mirage/Paris Fantasy 2. Yao Man 3. Radiant Star 4. Unshakeable
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Race 4--1. Precious Moment 2. Dalidali 3. Dulce My Love 4. Fly Aday Fly
Race 5--1. Adam's Call/Bulakeña 2. Material Maker 3. Suonos 4. Puppy Dog Tail 5. Moneyline
Race 6--1. Run Like D Wind/Angie Gray 2. Showtime Lady 3. Itz Me Dahlin 4. Jedi
Race 7--1. Lovely Tara 2. Little Sam 3. Millennium Man 4. Quick Pick
Race 8--1. Mano Po 2. Strong Colony 3. War General 4. Galaxy Wars
Race 9--1. Ocean Cookie 2. Gun Powder 3. Long Hitter 4. Extreme Mahgic/Play the Filed 5. Blitzkrieg 6. Patago

Laguna Spring quintet ends NBC skid, overwhelms Cavite

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring waxed hot from the start to crush Cavite, 87-70, and end a two-game skid in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the packed San Luis Sports Complex here.

Little-known Mike Nuqui sparkled for the Spring of the NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro with 16 points, including four of six from the arc.

The defeat spoiled the debut of the Far Eastern Insurance-backed cagers of Bacoor Mayor Edwin Malvar and Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Sunbolt, Nature's Spring, Skygo, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

With the Insurers turning the ball over nine times, Spring jumped to a 19-9 lead after 10 minutes and never looked back. The Laguna cagers posted their biggest lead of 23 points in the third period.

"We finally got our intensity going," said coach Vic Sanchez of Spring, which took hairline losses to the Parañaque Jets, 67-68, and Forward Taguig, 86-87, in its first two outings. "The boys poured it on from the start."

Cavite skipper Norman Nunez led the Insurers with 24 points.

The scores:

LAGUNA 87—Nuqui 16, Manucat 14, Domingo 14, Proceso 10, Kalaw 9, Mallari 8, Manuel 6, Vivero 3, Corbin 3, Reyes 2, Mendoza 0, Nolasco 0, Lingal 0.

CAVITE 70—Nunez 24, V. Santos 12, Sierra 12, Atunaga 8, Quiambao 4, Mopera 2, Panares 2, Finullar 2, Santiago 2, Valdez 2, M. Santos 0, Piodo 0.

Quarters: 19-9, 48-28, 70-48, 87-70

Rosales best RP scorer in Macau

MACAU—Gerald Rosales shot a one-over-par 72 Thursday and emerged the best scorer among six Filipino pros after the first round of the Macau Open, 12th leg of this year's Asian Tour.

The reed-thin Rosales, the Philippine Open champion in 2002, had nines of 34-38 at the scenic par 35-36-71 Macau Golf and Country Club, seven strokes behind joint leaders Marcus Both of Australia and China's Zheng Wengen, who had identical six-under 65s.

Frankie Miñoza, the country's No. 1 shotmaker, struggled in the back nine with a four-over 40 like Cassius Casas as both matched the 73s of Danny Zarate (34-39) and Carito Villaroman (36-37).

Jherome Delariarte, winner of The Country Club Invitational last month in Canlubang, carded a 75 (35-40).

Miñoza, the top Filipino in the Asian Order of Merit at No. 24 despite playing in only five events so far, bogeyed four times on the back nine after going out in 33.

American Fred Couples, the former Masters champion and chief attraction of the event, opened up with a 68.

Jasmin nails Baguio plum

ATHENS Olympian Jasmin Figueroa lived up to expectations by winning the recent National Archery Association of the Philippines' second qualifying tournament at the PSC Teachers' Camp in Baguio City.

The 20-year-old Figueroa, who created a stir in Athens last year by ousting former world champion Natalia Valeeva of Italy in the first round, humbled Edwina delos Santos, 103 points to 87, in the women's Olympic Round finals.

Figureroa made the finals by knocking out 2001 Southeast Asian Games titlist Purita Joy Marino, 93-87. Marino finished third by beating Rachelle Anne Cabral.

Marvin Cordero beat Christian Cubilla, 107-103, in the finals to top the men's event.

Dumaguete City's Mark Javier took third spot by surprising Florante Matan, 105-99.

Crack foreign . . .

From page A27

Port services magnate Enrique Razon, a staunch supporter of RP golf, will hit one of the ceremonial drives to open the event, which is being presented by Philippine Airlines, ICTSI, San Miguel Corp. and Konica U-bix.

Other backers are the Hanjin Group, Pagcor, Aboitiz Group of Companies, Petron, PCSO and the Department of Tourism with the Lima City Hotel as the official residence.

Top derbies get big backer

A RECORD number of entries are vying in the P1.5 million Pre-Fiesta 5-Cock Derby sponsored by Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster at the Malaybalay Coliseum in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. The finals kick off tomorrow. Big cockfights also rages on in Bohol with Thunderbird Stag Developer backing top cocker Ernersto Herrera II in today's championship round of the P1-million Special 5-Cock promotion at the New Calape Cultural Center. In Gamiz, Saguday, Quirino, the 5-Cock Express Derby sizzles with a P600,000 guaranteed prize up for grabs at the Quirino Recreation Center with Mayor William Lim as host and Thunderbird Platinum as one of the backers. Meanwhile, the entry field builds up for the P500,000 Bakbakan sa Vargas 5-Cock Derby at Vargas Coliseum in Tuguegarao City on May 21, with Rogel Saguyo and Benjie Tan and Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate and Conditioner as sponsor.

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TOYOTA HILUX ALL TERRAIN	25
THIRD WORLD OUTDOOR-SHELL	25
MP TURBO	25
TEAM TRIBU (DAVAO TEAM)	24
SIDEWAYS	16
HONDA BLAZERS	15
TEAM VUDU AUDIONET (EDGE)	14
IGUANA	2

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2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 XXX 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:45 1:35 4:25 7:15 10:00

6 IN GOOD COMPANY
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 SIX
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8 THE WEDDING DATE
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9 GUESS WHO?
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10 THE PACIFIER
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2 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
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3 THE INTERPRETER
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3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
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4 GUESS WHO?
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5 RESERVE

6 RESERVE

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

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1 IN GOOD COMPANY
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 XXX 2
4 AMITYVILLE HORROR

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4 THE JACKET
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3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
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3 THE JACKET
4 GUESS WHO?

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2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SIX
4 XXX 2
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
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2 SAHARA
3 GUESS WHO?
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5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 SAHARA
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 XXX 2
6 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 IN GOOD COMPANY	2 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	3 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SHATTERED GLASS	5 XXX 2	6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR	7 GUESS WHO
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 IN GOOD COMPANY	2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN		
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PARADISE RACE

Team Iguana trio in cruise control

By Jasmine W. Payo

CHINALPAN and Bernabe of Team Iguana shine in the Cagayan banca challenge. MELO VILLAREAL

LAOAG CITY—There's no overtaking Team Iguana's gung-ho racers.

For the third straight day, Andrew Chinalpan Jr., Orville Bernabe and Dennis Ararao cruised to the top spot in the Island Paradise Adventure Race that wound up here Wednesday night.

Team Iguana initially stumbled with seven overall demerit points. But luck remained on the side of the champion adventure racers as they wound up with only two demerits after Day 5 of the nine-day auto rally.

The early favorites found the only five-point bonus card buried in the sands of Saud municipal beach in Pagudpod town, one of the physical challenges in the day-long race.

"We're doing okay, so hopefully we won't have any car problems in the last few days," said Ararao after Team Iguana arrived first at the Shell Station pit stop in their Nissan Frontier.

Team Iguana remained 12 points ahead of Team Edge, which dislodged Honda-Petron Blazers from second spot.

Driving a Ford Ranger, triathlete Nonoy Jopson, Niño Abarquez and Quinito Moras incurred no demerit in the fifth stage for a 14-point finish.

Celebrity racer Illac Diaz and brothers Marc and JC Leviste of Honda-Petron Blazers remained in the top three with 15 demerits in their silver Honda CRV.

Team Sideways stayed close with 16 demerits as Carlo Garchitorena, Rocky Garcia and Boyet Policarpio coasted to a perfect score for the second straight day in their silver Toyota Rav 4.

The 13 remaining teams drove to several tourist destinations from flag-off at Callao Cave in Cagayan province, then competed in physical and mental tasks along the way, including the banca paddling challenge at the Taggat Lagoon in Claveria, Cagayan, and the bamboo raft paddling at the Saud Municipal Beach in Pagudpod.

Several racers have confessed to exhaustion as the P1-million challenge organized by the Department of Tourism reached the 1,320-km mark of the 2,000-km Luzon leg.

Olympia jins rule at SM Fairview

TEAM Olympia dominated the grade school boys' novice division, topping six of nine categories to emerge the winningest squad in taekwondo competitions of the Summer Sports at SM malls at SM Fairview recently.

Jomar Lalacsan, Julian Flores and Jeremiah Serrano sparked Team Olympia's romp by ruling Groups 1, 2 and 3, respectively, before Gian Dejamito, Michael Quebral and Mickey Cordero beat their rivals to pocket the Groups 5, 6 and 8 crowns in the event launched last year by SM in cooperation with JVC and Globe.

Meanwhile, SM Southmall hosts the jins this weekend with a big field expected to vie for top honors. Hostilities start at 10 a.m.

Three other Team Olympia members won in convincing fashions, including Regine Lumbo in Group 1 of girls' novice, Joel Codina (Group I) and Allan Codina (Group 3) in boys' advance, Elaine Guiangan in women's advance and Hansel Gregorio in men's advance.

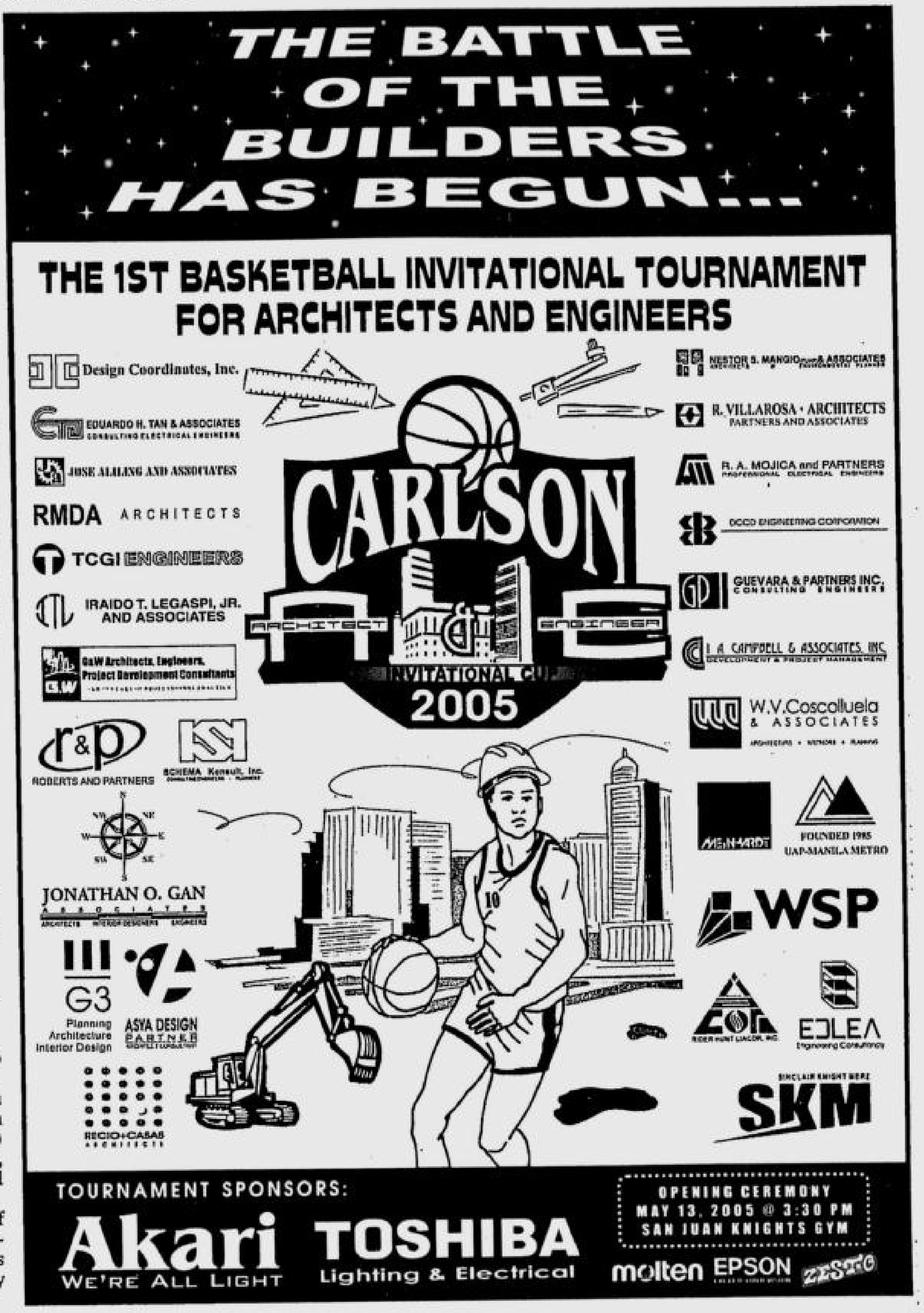
Diliman Preparatory School and School of Saint Anthony reigned supreme in the juniors division with Ronalyn Ramos, Kim Ammay, Myles Cura and Mara Cura winning for DPS and Gary Canoso, Joy Reyes prevailing for SSA.

80 fights up as PCC derby starts today

MORE than 80 tough fights are scheduled in the championship round of the Barkadahan 5-Cock Derby which kicks off at 4 p.m. today at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. From a field of 122 entries, 57 qualified for today's 3-cock finals of the derby which stakes a guaranteed prize of P1 million and is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Casino Filipino-Silahis. Meanwhile, the third edition of the exciting Superfights 2-Cock Ulutan Fastest Win is all set on Wednesday with over 250 entries competing. The guaranteed prize is P500,000 and the entry fee P2,200. Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said registration will start at 6 a.m. while the first fight sizzles at 7 a.m. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750. The Pasay cockpit will also present the PCCA Grand Championship Derby on May 20.

'Datime' tilt at Sta. Ana May 26, 28

A HUNDRED or so smalltime cockers and breeders are vying for a total guaranteed prize of P700,000 in the Daytime 4-Cock Derby on May 26 and 28 at the Sta. Ana Cockpit on A.P. Reyes Avenue, Makati. Derby hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who conceptualized the "daytime derby" format, said participants who post two wins in the elimination round will each receive P10,000 as bonus. Entry fee is P5,500. Submission of weights is on May 25 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 898-3474, 898-3475 or 0921-5191962 (Paliza) and 0918-9251121 (Badiola). The event will start promptly at 12 noon on May 26.



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Paz-Lee rules best ball

BAMBEE dela Paz and her Korean partner Lee Seo-jae combined for a three-day aggregate of 11-under-par 205 to rule the team competition in the seventh leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour recently at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

Dela Paz and Lee finished nine strokes ahead of Wolen Superal and Marcel Puyat who posted a 214 in the event of the circuit also backed by Philippine Airlines, Samsung and Unilever.

IG Gutierrez and Maan Legaspi wound up third at 215 while the Regan de Guzman-Jikjik Abdon pair placed fourth with a 217.

Individual winners in the boys' division were Migo Ochoa in Class A, Superal in Class B, Michael Manaig in Class C, Bino dela Paz in Class D and AR Ramos in Class E. The girls' champions were Lee in Class A, Chihiro Ikeda in Class B, Legaspi in Class C, Andie Unson in Class D.

Meanwhile, everything is set for the inaugural Philippine Junior Golf Championship slated May 17-20 at Manila Southwoods' Legends course.

Also dubbed as the Montecillo Cup in honor of jungolf founder and chair Amalia, the tourney features the country's best jungolfers led by Tonton Asistio, Miko Yee, Princess Superal, Regan de Guzman and sisters Linnel and Debbie de Villa as they dispute the national boys' and girls' titles.

Where is IOC's Elizalde?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE RAGING basketball controversy between the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Basketball Association of the Philippines, a problem that clearly involves a member of the Olympic family, would not have reached this critical point had IOC representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde taken the time to mediate at the first sign of trouble.

But Mr. Elizalde did not move fast enough to prevent the issue from becoming complicated. Is Mr. Elizalde shirking his duty to protect the Olympic family? Isn't he supposed to ensure the promotion and application of measures aimed at strengthening the unity among members of the IOC?

"The long presence of Mr. Elizalde in the local sporting scene is another reason why sports does not progress in the Philippines," former POC president Julian Malonso once said.

Then the president of the Philippine Football Federation, Elizalde was appointed to the Olympic body way back in 1985 by former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. He replaced the late Jorge Vargas, who was the NOC (now POC) president from 1936 to 1955.

As a member of the Olympic organization, Elizalde was appointed to various prestigious IOC commissions, including the Coordination Committee for the Olympic Games, the IOC Reforms Commission and the IOC Nominations Commission, which screens and evaluates candidates for IOC membership. His recommendation carries much weight because the IOC, now headed by Jacques Rogge of Belgium, listens only to him.

Elizalde could have provided the mature guidance to the POC and the BAP by merely calling the feuding bodies to the conference table so that both would reach a mutual solution to end their quarrel.

On record, the BAP, headed by Tiny Literal, is the recognized body of the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) in the Philippines.

According to Malonso, it is the inherent power of the BAP to select the national players and coaches which the BAP cannot delegate to the POC and its president, Peping Cojuangco, who is trying to form his own basketball team.

The IOC may even throw a monkey wrench at the POC plans if it insists on forming the national basketball team because that is encroaching on the autonomy of the BAP. The BAP selects the members of the national team, not the POC. But the POC can sanction the selection submitted by the BAP. The most that the POC can do is to recommend the suspension of the BAP to the Fiba if it violates the rules.

However, I agree with Cojuangco's call to send only the best to international meets such as the Seaba, Southeast Asian Games, the Asiad and the ABC following the country's string of embarrassing setbacks in recent years. There is an urgent need to overhaul the system.

I'm afraid that if the row is not settled amicably, the controversy may even reach the court, which, in my view, could result in the eventual suspension (not only of the BAP from the Fiba) but also of the POC from the IOC.

While the IOC will never question any court decision nor decide against the order of the government, it could, instead, if so warranted, suspend an NOC or withdraw its recognition as provided for in its charter. In both situations, it is the athletes who will suffer as they will be deprived of their opportunity to participate in international competitions.

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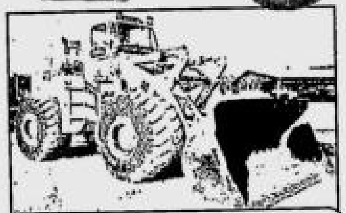
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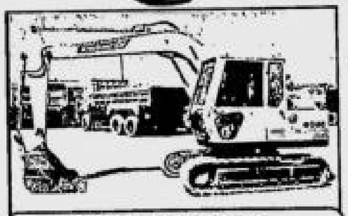
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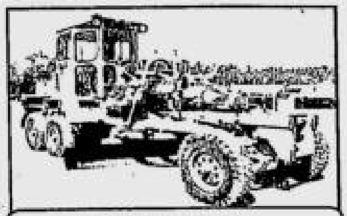
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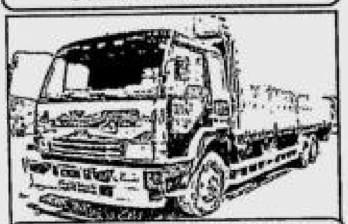
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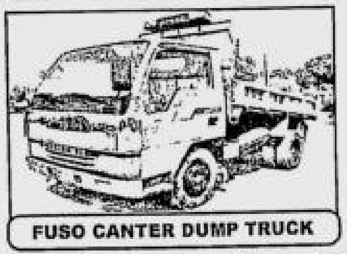
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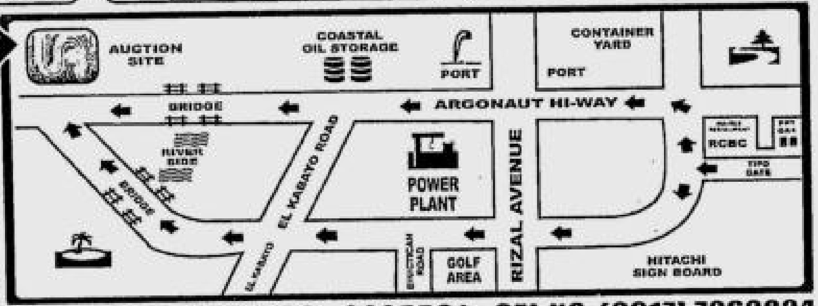

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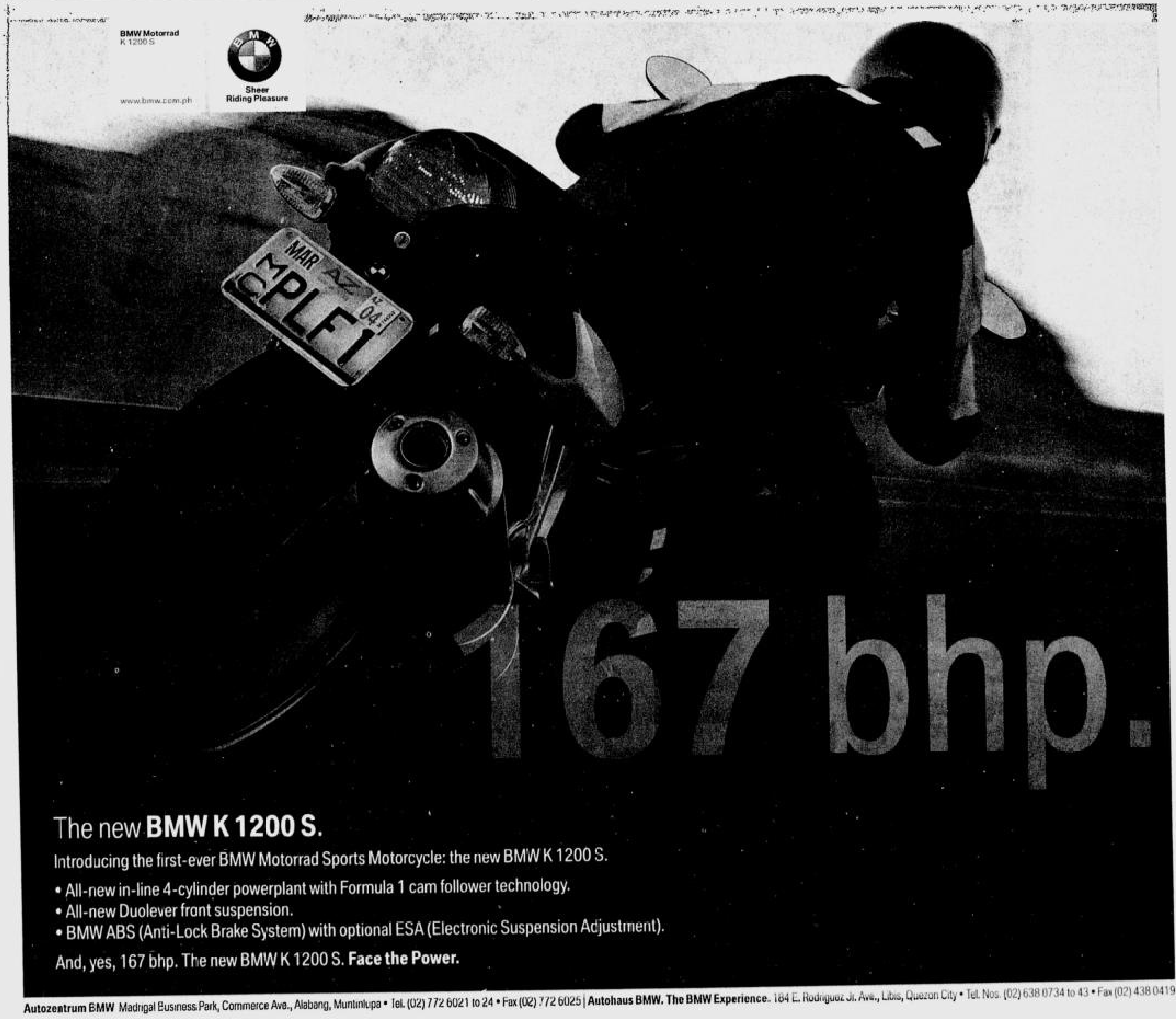

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Film board to review talk shows

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board has ordered show biz talk shows "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN and "S-Files" on GMA 7 to submit copies of their episodes in the last two months, to determine if they violated any rules.

In a statement, MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia said the move was prompted by complaints from the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard), filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes and Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno.

The MTRCB on Wednesday "summoned responsible officials" of the two networks to a "preliminary conference," Laguardia added.

During the meeting, an MTRCB commit-

FILM/ A2-3

Another citation for 'Maynila'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST year, we wrote about **Lino Brocka**'s "Maynila, Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag" ending up in **Tony Rayns**' book on the 100 best movies ever made. Our report was deemed an eye-opener by some Filipinos who weren't aware of our filmmakers' excellence, and was credited with boosting national pride in our cinema artists.

Well, here's another upbeat report, again about Brocka's "Maynila." This time, it's the lone Filipino movie included in the new book, "1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die."

The book edited by **Steven Jay Schneider** describes the movie as "a breakthrough for Filipino cinema. It is often regarded as the best Filipino film of all time. It captures the harshness of urban poverty through an assaulting soundtrack in which industrial noises, traffic sounds and crowd hubbub contribute to an overwhelming tension. The images of urban entrapment and pain are sharply contrasted with intermittent flashbacks to its protagonists' coastal idyll..."

Why, of thousands of Filipino movies ever made, has "Maynila" made the biggest mark internationally? The film's merits are a major factor, of course (aside from Brocka's direction, the film boasts of a script by **Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.** and **Mike de Leon**'s cinematography).

But the help of European boosters like **Pierre Rissient** cannot be overlooked. Rissient "discovered" Brocka for European film festivals and the art film circuit, and made it easier for "Maynila" to be noticed and appreciated by international film critics.

Brocka's "dramatic" temperament was regarded as another plus, and his activist stance on social and political issues was a hit in Europe, where rebelliousness is encouraged rather than clamped down on.

A more recent film, 'La Visa Loca,' is a should-see production for lovers of Filipino movies that come to bear on local realities, rather than enticing viewers to escape from them

In fact, "Orapronobis," one of Brocka's most uncompromising political dramas, was financed by French backers. Even as it was banned in the Philippines during Martial Law, it was screened to great acclaim all over Europe. In fact, the first time we were able to see the movie was at the Moscow International Film Festival. It was only years later that it was "allowed" to be shown locally.

'La Visa Loca'

UNITEL Pictures International's latest film, "La Visa Loca," follows the misadventures of Jess Huson (**Robin Padilla**). Like millions of Filipinos, he dreams of working and living in the Unites States. However, his visa applications

ANOTHER/ A2-2

Claudine on Cloud Nine

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Erwin Obcemea for Star Studio Magazine

The very successful young actress builds her dream home, with her dream man

MONTHS before the big day in January 2006, the bride was already radiating bliss.

In the new home she had built with future groom Raymart Santiago in the outskirts of Quezon City, actress Claudine Barretto was regaling guests with her wedding plans.

"I want a simple ceremony, but I don't think that will ever happen," the star sighed, knowing only too well that celebrity demanded nothing less than a multi-media coverage. "We want to share it with friends and fans. But because we can't possibly bring everyone to the venue, we agreed on doing a TV special."

She had always envisioned a garden wedding in Baguio (Camp John Hay), Tagaytay (Tagaytay Highlands), or Cebu (Shangri-La Mactan). But Subic seems to be the most logical choice now.

"As the days go by, there are lots of changes *pa*," she said.

One thing's for sure: her favorite designer Randy Ortiz will make the gown.

"In the past, I would fit my gowns with Randy only once and [each time it would be] perfect," she said. "For my wedding outfit, he even went all the way to the United States to buy the shoes."

Claudine is getting a little help from other friends as well.

"My wedding coordinator is a good friend of mine, Ting Blando," she said. "She knows exactly what I want."

Her only wish is for a clear day. "Not too hot, not too cold, no rain... or better yet, for God to give us a rainbow!"

Although she is busy with the altar date, she is also currently juggling three high-profile projects for her home studio—the new telenovela "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin" and two new movies "Nasaan Ka Man" and "Dubai."

Aside from the wedding, the couple is devoting all their resources (and creativity) to their new home.

Designed by Raymart, who once wanted to become an architect, the modern Asian home also benefited from Claudine's feminine touch.

"It's a lot like a spa," she described their home. "Very relaxing and laid back."

On the day of our visit, Jenny Miller, Claudine's close pal and bridesmaid, was having a massage in the baby room.

CLAUDINE/ A2-4

Romy looked forward to a tribute by peers

By Marinel R. Cruz

ROMY Diaz had looked forward to a tribute by colleagues, originally set on June 5.

"He wanted very much to attend that concert," the character actor's son Siegfred Allan told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday night. "He told me, 'For the first time, I will be the star.' This is why we're still holding it even if he is gone."

Romy succumbed to cancer on Tuesday. "All I Ask of You" will be held Sunday, 7 p.m., at the Zirkoh Comedy Bar on Timog Avenue.

"We all decided that it was best to pull the plug on Papa, but nobody could do it. He must have known that, so he just let go, for our sake," said Siegfred in an interview during the wake at Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Romy, among the late Fernando Poe Jr.'s "favorite" onscreen tormentors, was declared brain dead at the National Kidney Institute in the afternoon of May 3. He was comatose and hooked to a life support system after he choked on a piece of meat.

He was admitted to the NKI on April 27. Although he was being fed through a tube, his family said in an earlier interview, the actor insisted on having soup occasionally. On May 3, he was having soup when he choked.

Romy was last seen in the "Bertud ng Putik" (2003).

"He never wanted us to worry about him," said Siegfred. "For a while, he even tried to hide his illness (cancer of the tongue) from us."

Siegfred recalled that his father had complained of a lump on his tongue nine months ago. "Papa went to see a doctor. We asked him about it, but he said it was nothing and that he would have it removed immediately. We became suspicious when he mentioned something about getting a laser treatment."

When the family found out about the cancer, Siegfred said, it was already in the second stage. "Papa was confident that he would get well as long as he went for chemotherapy sessions. *Tito* Ronnie (the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.) used to help with the medical bills."

There had been no other cancer victim in his family until now, Siegfred noted. But his father had been a heavy drinker, he said, and consumed up to four packs of cigarette a day. "Papa's doctor said his vices must have caused

ROMY/ A2-4

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Rachelle Ann Go
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The Brothers at Corik's

THE BROTHERS, the popular singing group that is packing in retro music lovers at Corik's Bar every Monday evening, will perform with Rico J. Puno at the show titled "Handog ni Mayor Binay," celebrating Makati Foundation Day, 6 p.m. today at the Quadrangle of the Makati City Hall. The show is free for all employees and residents of Makati. The Brothers, known for covers of '60s, '70s and '80s hit songs, consists of Bobby Gomez on keyboard and vocals, Bubut Gomez on lead vocals and Eddie Aromin on guitar and vocals.

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1 IN GOOD COMPANY 10:50, 1:35, 4:20 7:05, 9:50
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00 PG-13
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
4 GUESS WHO? 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GUESS WHO PG13 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20
IN GOOD COMPANY PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
THE INTERPRETER PG13 11:45,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:45
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS R13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
AMITYVILLE HORROR R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Tagos sa Laman
4 Kingdom of Heaven
5 XXX 2

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Amityville
2 Tagos sa Laman
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Kingdom of Heaven
6 XXX 2

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 874.43.99
1 Hostage
2 Rental Reservation

SHANG CINEPLEX
① KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MTRCB: PG-13 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10 LMF
② THE INTERPRETER MTRCB. PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
③ AMITYVILLE HORROR MTRCB: R-13 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
④ IN GOOD COMPANY MTRCB:PG-13 11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
PREMIERE THEATRE GUESS WHO
MTRCB: PG-13 11.30, 2.05, 4.40, 7.15, 9.50
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Shangri-La Plaza

ROBIN Padilla in 'La Visa Loca'

Another …

From page A2-1

keeps getting denied.

Jess has to take care of his aging but randy father (**Johnny Delgado**). To make ends meet, Jess drives for his prized client, a TV program host fascinated with weirdness and oddities.

Jess chances upon an old girlfriend (Rufa Mae Quinto), who works in a *perya* sideshow. She has a child who may or may not be Jess' son.

In the end, Jess does everything he can to achieve his dream of going to the States. But just as he's about to get what he's been longing for, he is faced with a life-changing choice.

"La Visa Loca" is deemed to be a significant production, because it seeks to shed light, not just on the Filipino diaspora, but also on other aspects of contemporary culture—folk superstition, media, the importance of family, colonial mentality—etc.!

Clearly, a should-see production for lovers of Filipino movies that come to bear on local realities, rather than enticing viewers to escape from them.

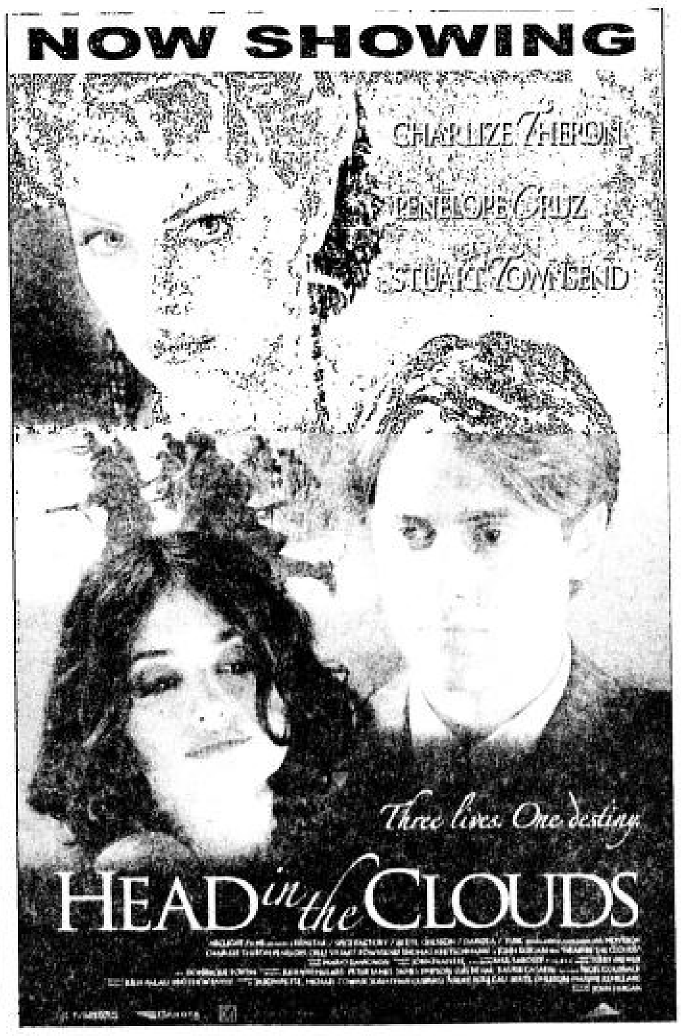
Credits: Written and directed by Mark Meily, photographed by **Lee Meily**, executive-produced by **Jun Reyes** and **Sharon Cuneta**, edited by **Danny Añonuevo** and **Ike Veneracion**, designed by **Norman Regalado**.

'Pompeii: The Last Day'

THE DISCOVERY Channel screens "Pompeii: The Last Day" at 9 p.m. on May 22. The factual drama recreates the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius almost 2,000 years ago.

As four billion tons of pumice, rock and ash were violently thrust into the atmosphere, day turned to night. Within 24 hours, the twin cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried under 25 meters of volcanic debris.

Replays are at 1 p.m. on May 23, 7 p.m. on May 25, 11 a.m. on May 26, and 9 a.m. on May 29.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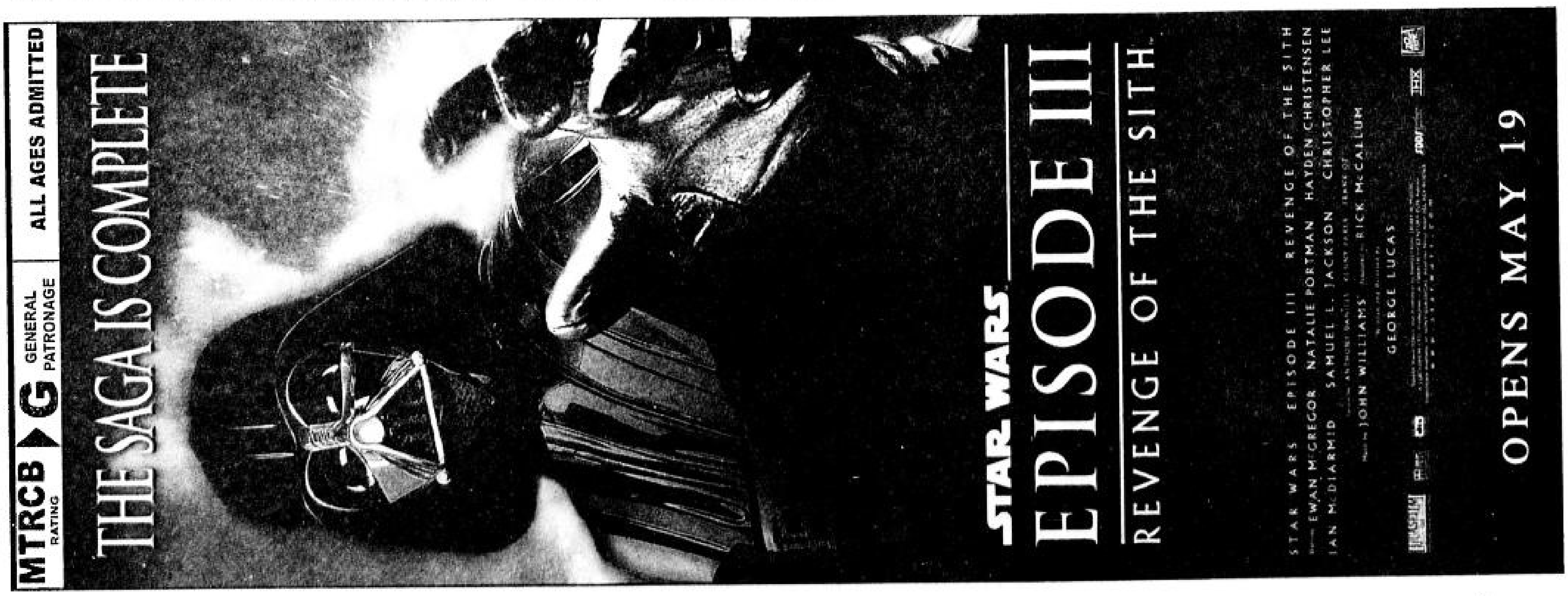
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IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
JOHN WILLIAMS RICK McCALLUM
GEORGE LUCAS
OPENS MAY 19

LAGUARDIA

Film board …

From page A2-1

tee pointed out to network officials the issues that have been reported and discussed in newspapers in the past weeks. Foremost among these is the airing of sex videos on television, Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment.

"Both networks insisted they were not guilty of anything," said Laguardia.

In February, the MTRCB reprimanded "The Buzz" in a memorandum for airing a "very explicit" version of Ethel Booba's reported sex video.

The following month, ABS-CBN complained of what it said was "irresponsible journalism" practiced by GMA 7 when the Kapuso network aired parts of a sex video reportedly featuring ABS-CBN talent Piolo Pascual.

Laguardia called on "everyone concerned" to file formal complaints "and not merely express it through media."

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EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, May 13, 2005

WOWmalingMaLi!
9PM SABADO SABAGO!
ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10 PM)	Naruto (5:35 PM)	Vidjoking	Qpids.	TV Patrol World		Hiram	Spirits	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	Kamao			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knockout	Sorcerer Orphen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia (8:45 PM)	All About Eve (9:15 PM)		Bubble Gang			Sakal
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Score Tactics	The Ring	Crime & Punishment		Sports Illustrated		Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Asian X-Tour			The Regional Billiards		IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Jack In The Box				Worst Case Scenario	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Ipagpatawad Mo				Sabel				Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin				Cara Y Cruz				Linlang	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Playing It Straight		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		The Contender		David Blaine Street Magic		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season III)		Alias (Season II)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)					
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Police Stop		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Welcome To Mars		Asteroid! The Doomsday Rock		Mission: Mars		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		The Dark Side Of Chimps/Welcome To Mars/Dawn Of The Maya		Zambezi Troop/Asteroid! The Doomsday Rock/Quest For Phoenicians	
Solar Sports					WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA				In This Corner		NBA TV Daily	NBA Playoffs Semi-finals Game2					GWS Ep.19-2005		
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate			
HBO		Scrooged (3:05 PM)			On The Edge (2001) (4:45 PM)			The Monster Squad (6:10 PM)			Joe's Apartment (7:40 PM)			Disclosure				Catch Me If You Can (11:05PM)	
Star Movies				Target Of Opportunity			The Bread My Sweet (5:45 PM)				Kung Phooey			Shanghai Knights				Ravenous (10:55PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Mucha Lucha!	Premiere	Toon Pick	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN		English Premier Football League 2004/05				2005 WPBA Carolina Classic		Asian X Games VI Presented by Toyota			English premier league preview	Sportscenter Asia	Goals!	2004 Spinvitational Table Tennis Championships	Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean, The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	Forever Young (2:45 PM)				The Android Affair			Berserker: Hell's Warrior			The Wisher			Dragnet			Who's Your Daddy?		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Annie's Point			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Wire In The Blood
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Crime Night	
Sports Plus						Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Highlights		Italia Serie A				Get A Grip On Golf	Monster Jam	FMX		Inside the PGA	Wachovia Chmp Highlights		Eds Byron Nelson Chmp Day1
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pambansa	

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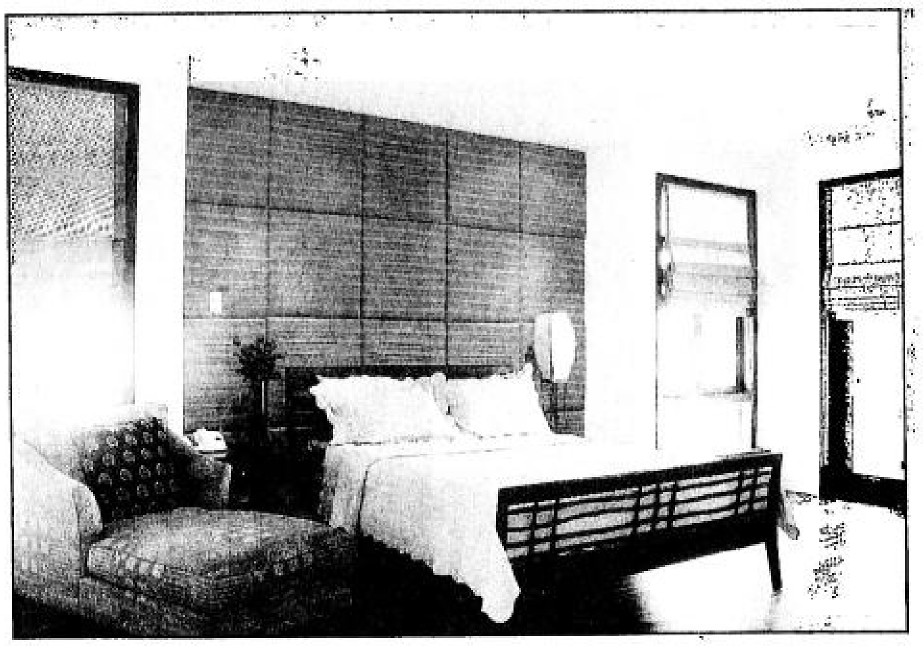
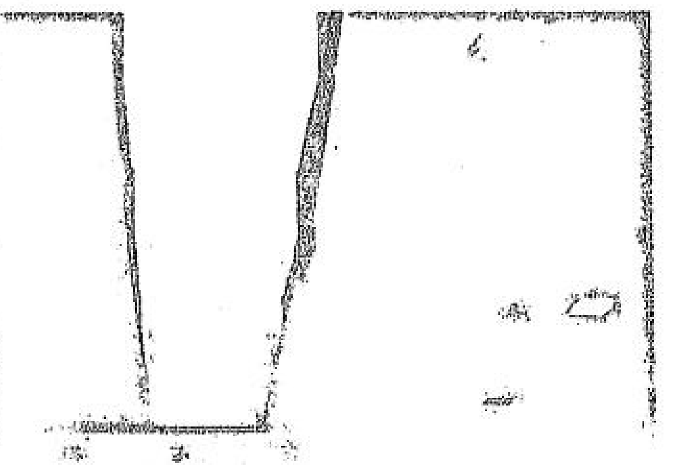
CHINESE doors lead to the master's bedroom



THIS guest room is guaranteed to make visitors feel at home, says the actress.



Claudine on Cloud Nine

From page A2-1

Claudine was bringing in a few accent pieces, Arturo Luz and Ben Cabrera paintings and Barretto heirloom décor, here and there.

Raymart provided the bonsais on the patio and the giant Maranaw drum from the South in the foyer area. The patchwork main door, made of 16 kinds of local hardwood, including narra and molave, was also Raymart's idea.

From Claudine's side of the family, there's also a team of design experts.

"I'm just so happy that my mom [Inday] is so good at fixing up a house," she said. "It's her passion. My sister Marjorie is also like that."

Claudine might not have inherited mom's flair, but she got the cooking skills down pat.

"Although I am Ilonggo," she said, "I learned how to cook Bicolano dishes because of the movie 'Kailangan Kita.' Bicol Express, Ginataang Apoy (actually the movie's original title)..."

She is such a whiz in the kitchen that she used to mount special theme parties for non-show biz gal pals in her old condo units in Platinum and LPL.

That's the same reason she has accumulated lots of fine-dining stuff through the years.

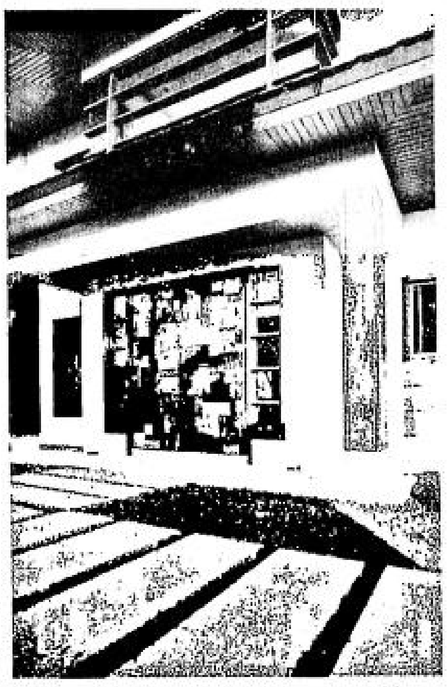
"Like these celadon plates from Thailand," Claudine explained, pointing at some pieces on the table. "Every time I go abroad, I make it a point to bring home something special. We used to have Chinese nights and we'd all dress up in cheongsams. Or we'd have Japanese nights and put chopsticks in our hair. Or we'd have seafood nights and make baked *tahong* and *halaan* soup. Or we'd have wine-and-cheese nights!"

Such parties are bound to become less frequent, of course, as she prepares to settle into quiet domesticity.

HANDS-ON mom with Sabina in the dining room. The accent is an Arturo Luz original.

QUEEN of the home on her throne, actually a daybed, in the living room

CURVED lounging chair for relaxation



UNIQUE patchwork door is Raymart's idea.

'Once on this Island' opens

ACTOR'S Actors Inc.'s (AAI) production of "Once on this Island," winner of the Laurence Olivier Best Musical award, opens at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City tonight at 8.

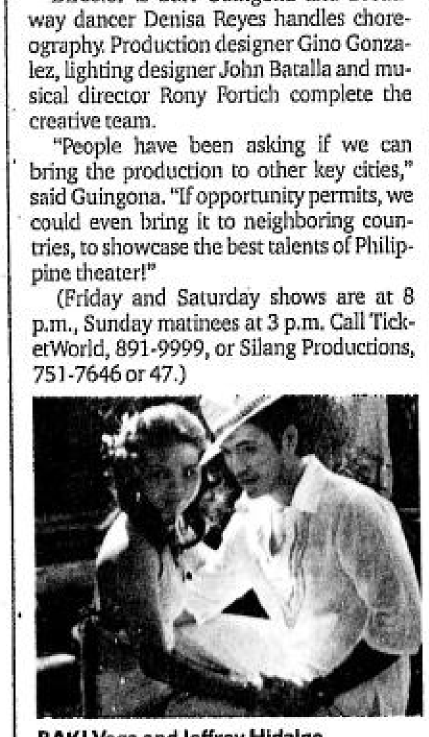
Making up the all-star cast of this well-loved musical are Bituin Escalante, Radha, Jett Pangan, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Michael de Mesa, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams, May Bayot, Bodjie Pascua, Cathy Azanza, Raki Vega, Kristian Lei and Gala Sanchez.

Based on "Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen, the musical is composed by the Tony award-winning team of Stephen Flaherty (music) and Lynn Ahrens (book and lyrics).

Director is Bart Guingona and Broadway dancer Denisa Reyes handles choreography. Production designer Gino Gonzalez, lighting designer John Batalla and musical director Rony Fortich complete the creative team.

"People have been asking if we can bring the production to other key cities," said Guingona. "If opportunity permits, we could even bring it to neighboring countries, to showcase the best talents of Philippine theater!"

(Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Call TicketWorld, 891-9999, or Silang Productions, 751-7646 or 47.)



RAKI Vega and Jeffrey Hidalgo

Cannes fest trying to lay off politics

CANNES, France—Cannes is where "Fahrenheit 9/11" caught fire, winning the film festival's top prize last year and putting the heat on the White House. This time, organizers want to avoid that kind of political firestorm.

As a new edition of the French Riviera festival opens Wednesday, its director has a reminder for the jury: Movies are usually judged for their art, not their politics.

"Michael Moore's talent is not in doubt," director Gilles Jacob said. "But in this case, it was a question of a satirical tract that was awarded a prize more for political than cinematographic reasons, no matter what the jury said."

The film's acclaim by the nine-member jury—led by director Quentin Tarantino—was an "out of the ordinary event that probably won't be repeated," Jacob said.

Of the 21 films in this year's main competition, none looks likely to match the political punch of "Fahrenheit."

An Iraqi film will compete for the first time, but "Kilometre Zero" is set not in present-day Iraq but in 1988, during the country's war with Iran. Other selections include films from China, Belgium and Mexico.

The festival opened Wednesday evening with the French thriller "Lemming," centered on two couples, a dinner party and a rodent stuck in the pipes of the kitchen sink.

"I have a taste for the strange," director Dominik Moll told France's Le Figaro newspaper.

Moll made the hit thriller "With a Friend Like Harry," where the title character turned out to be a deranged creep instead of a pal. His new film stars Laurent Lucas, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Andre Dussollier and Charlotte Rampling, whose career has been jump-started by young French directors.

Cannes' 12-day lineup includes many Cannes regulars, including Woody Allen, David Cronenberg, Wim Wenders, Lars von Trier, Atom Egoyan and Gus Van Sant.

Cronenberg's "A History of Violence" stars Viggo Mortensen as a diner owner who has a deadly encounter with burglars; Egoyan's "Where the Truth Lies," with Kevin Bacon and Colin Firth, is about a comedy duo whose careers end in scandal; and "Sin City," an action film, features Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke and Jessica Alba.

Cannes—which tries for a mix of small international films and big Hollywood blockbusters—will get its biggest boost of celebrity power from "Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith." The movie plays out of competition here days before its May 19 theatrical debut.

Allen's film is also not competing for prizes. The New York director, who won a career achievement award at Cannes in 2002, departed from his habitual Manhattan haunts to shoot "Match Point" in London. The cast includes Scarlett Johannson, Emily Mortimer and Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

This year's jury is led by Sarajevo-born director Emir Kusturica, one of the most respected figures in European film and a two-time winner of Cannes' top honor. Known for his whimsical, folkloric style, he won the Palme d'Or for 1985's "When Father Was Away on Business" and 1995's "Underground."

Other jury members include Mexican actress Salma Hayek, US author Toni Morrison, Spanish actor Javier Bardem and action director John Woo. The jury will present its awards at a closing ceremony on May 21. *AP*

Romy Diaz looked forward to a tribute by peers

From page A2-1

his illness, plus exposure to harsh lights during shooting."

Siegfred added: "My father was a fighter. His oncologist said it was amazing that he could still stand up, especially since his hemoglobin count had dropped to 10 from the normal count of 30. He had blood transfusion a few days before he died, but it only went up to 16 or 17."

Romy's remains lie in Chapel C of Funeraria Paz. He will be cremated this afternoon.

According to Siegfred, the casket was lent to them by actress and Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) executive director Boots Anson-Roa. Anson-Roa's father, the late actor Oscar Moreno, had used the casket. Moreno died in July 2003 and was cremated.

The tribute on Sunday, Siegfred said, would be a good opportunity to thank the family's many benefactors. "Among them are Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Revilla and Lito Lapid; Vic Sotto, Amay Bisaya, [Ilocos Sur Governor] Chavit Singson and (Puerto Princesa City Mayor) Edward Hagedorn. There's also this woman, whom we only know by the name Ester, who sent us five packs of food supplement worth P5,000 each. She said she saw us on TV."

Romy was the youngest of six siblings. He is survived by brothers Peng and actor Paquito, son Siegfred, daughter-in-law Frida and granddaughter Betina. He was separated from his wife Alice.

Paquito himself suffered a stroke in October and underwent surgery to remove a blood clot in the brain. Paquito has been confined at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa for three months.

Romy was famous for villain roles in films like "Ang Alamat ng Lawin," "Panabla," "Hindi Sisiw ang Kalaban Mo" and "Tumbador."

ROMY Diaz's friend Amay Bisaya, brother Peng Diaz and son Siegfred view the actor's remains.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ENTERTAINMENT

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THE YEARS have been kind to Guy and Pip.

HAYDEN Christensen: boyish and witty

NORA sings to two elderly fans.

Hayden Christensen has the force, but Ate Guy has the staying power

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Not being a big "Star Wars" fan, I was prepared to be bored last week when I watched "Star Wars: Episode III, Revenge of the Sith" at 20th Century Fox Studio's Daryl Zanuck Theater.

I wasn't one of the fanatics who camped out at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre more than a month before the film's opening, even though "Revenge of the Sith" wouldn't premiere there. The fans knew the movie would open at ArcLight, several blocks away, but hoped camping out at Grauman's would make Fox move the venue to where the first "Star Wars" premiered in 1977.

Fine features

Well, here's news to "Star Wars" fans everywhere, whether camping out on Hollywood Boulevard or not, Anakin Skywalker's journey to the dark side is not a trip to the boring side, thanks to Hayden Christensen. His effective exposition of Anakin's transformation into Darth Vader, plus Ewan McGregor's engaging Obi-Wan Kenobi, aid writer/director George Lucas in this final installment of the "Star Wars" series.

The day following the screening, Hayden, who has fine, boyish features and curly hair (think Sto. Niño), answered a reporter's question rather well: Since George Lucas tends to be immersed in the film's technical aspects, how good is he in directing actors?

"If you can appreciate what you're getting into, then you're fine [as an actor]," the 24-year-old Vancouver native declared during the interview at the Wetherly Room of the Four Seasons. "George has such affection for the technology. As far as [this preoccupation] being a hindrance to the [actors'] work, it's a different way of approaching your character. I enjoyed the challenge."

He admitted that filming against a blue screen instead of actual sets could be wearisome. "Showing up every day and seeing the same sea of blue started to feel a little bit like déjà vu every day," he confessed. "It demanded so much of your imagination. Thankfully, I have an overactive imagination. I felt more acclimated to this way of making a movie this time around."

He is right. While his performance in the prequel, "Attack of the Clones," was described as well, wooden, he comes alive in this final installment. He found his bearings acting with "characters that aren't there" (he estimated that 70 percent of what appears in the film is computer-generated) challenging.

He describes acting in a scene with Yoda: "On the set... they had a blue box for me to sit on and there was a blue box on which they propped up a little green puppet. An assistant director off-screen was doing his best Yoda impersonation. It was very hard at times ... because you didn't have anything to react to. Then you see the movie and there I am talking with Yoda. It was great."

Asked if he got to keep any props which could be worth a fortune someday, Hayden revealed, "I got to keep my light sabers which are in my closet at home in Toronto. I pick them up every now and then and give them a twirl."

In GQ magazine's cover story on Hayden, Ewan McGregor joked about Hayden's dexterity in twirling the light saber: "I think he was a baton girl in a past life."

Of course, somebody had to ask if Hayden felt that the force was with him. "I'd like to think so," he laughed. George (Lucas) is with me."

Atta Guy!

If the force is with Hayden, staying power is with Nora Aunor. At her concert in Glendale's historic Alex Theatre last week, Ate Guy still drew rabid fans.

The producers didn't have enough time to promote the concert. But while the house was not full, Noranians still made it seem like a packed affair with loud expressions of affection for their idol.

Mercifully, it was not as crazy as the last time she performed in the same venue.

That concert felt more like a mall promo tour. Fans crowded around Nora while she sang. She posed for pictures, yes posed, with followers while rendering a song. This time around, I actually got to hear her sing. Not that there were no more interruptions. Early in the show, a fan kept yelling so Ate Guy finally had to ask the woman to come up the stage. The fan brought a shopping bag and did not hesitate to bring out—one by one—her assorted Nora Aunor memorabilia.

The fan would have stayed onstage through the rest of the show hadn't Ate Guy diplomatically escorted her down the stage.

Almost 52, Nora probably still has the best voice in Philippine pop music history. Save for a few numbers, she sang virtually the same songs from her last concert here, including old reliables like "People" and "The Impossible Dream."

Her voice, smokier now but still rich and full-bodied, her clear diction and simple, soothing delivery, command the listener to pay attention.

Easy camaraderie

When Tirso Cruz III joined Nora onstage (the years have been kind to these two—they still look and sound good, perhaps even better than in their younger years), they had a relaxed, easy camaraderie.

Fe de los Reyes provided the comic relief, appearing as Maria Leonora Teresa at one point, and singing the eponymous song composed for this doll that symbolized the love of Ate Guy and Kuya Pip at the height of their love team's popularity. I urge Fe to try and go for the mainstream American stand-up comedy circuit.

Dessa, who was not in the bill, sang two songs. I had been looking forward to hearing her, and she stunned me. No two singers are more different in style than Nora and Dessa. This petite singer wisely explained her surprise appearance in the concert to the audience of Noranians. They lapped up her songs. After all, they are confident that Ate Guy is the one and only, the original superstar.

Since it was the eve of Mother's Day weekend, Nora sang another perennial from her repertoire, "Mama," to two elderly women who answered her call for mothers to join her onstage. What do you know, one of the ladies sang along with Nora trilling in soprano, if shakily.

The Superstar thanked her fans for continuing to support her "*kahit ano po ang nababalitaan ninyo.*"

She acknowledged the presence of her lawyer, Claire Espina, who came with her whole family, including her mother.

Ah, this world—either you're a Noranian or a Vilmanian; a Star Wars fan or not.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

A very special gift for Pinky Marquez

SINGER-ACTRESS Pinky Marquez received a very special gift on Mother's Day: she began rehearsals with daughter Karel for Atlantis Productions' staging of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

Karel is playing the lead role of Belle, alternating with KC Concepcion. Pinky will play Mrs. Potts, and will get to sing the show's title tune at every performance.

The limited engagement at the Meralco Theater starts June 16.

It isn't the first time mother and daughter have performed together.

Pinky recalls: "We were together in 'El Filibusterismo' at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Although Karel wasn't part of the original cast, she told the director of her desire to perform and he allowed her to cross the stage in a crowd scene. Since then, Karel has been in love with theatre. We also did "Magnificat," directed by Nestor Torre. He gave her the part of a singing Angel and I was the Virgin Mary. Later on I played Maria in "The Sound of Music" at the Meralco Theater and she played Marta."

Karel remembers those days with fondness, too. "Being with my mom onstage is exciting because I used to always watch her. That's how I knew I wanted to be a performer, too."

Bobby Garcia directs "Beauty and the Beast,"

A VERY/A3-3

PINKY and daughter Karel

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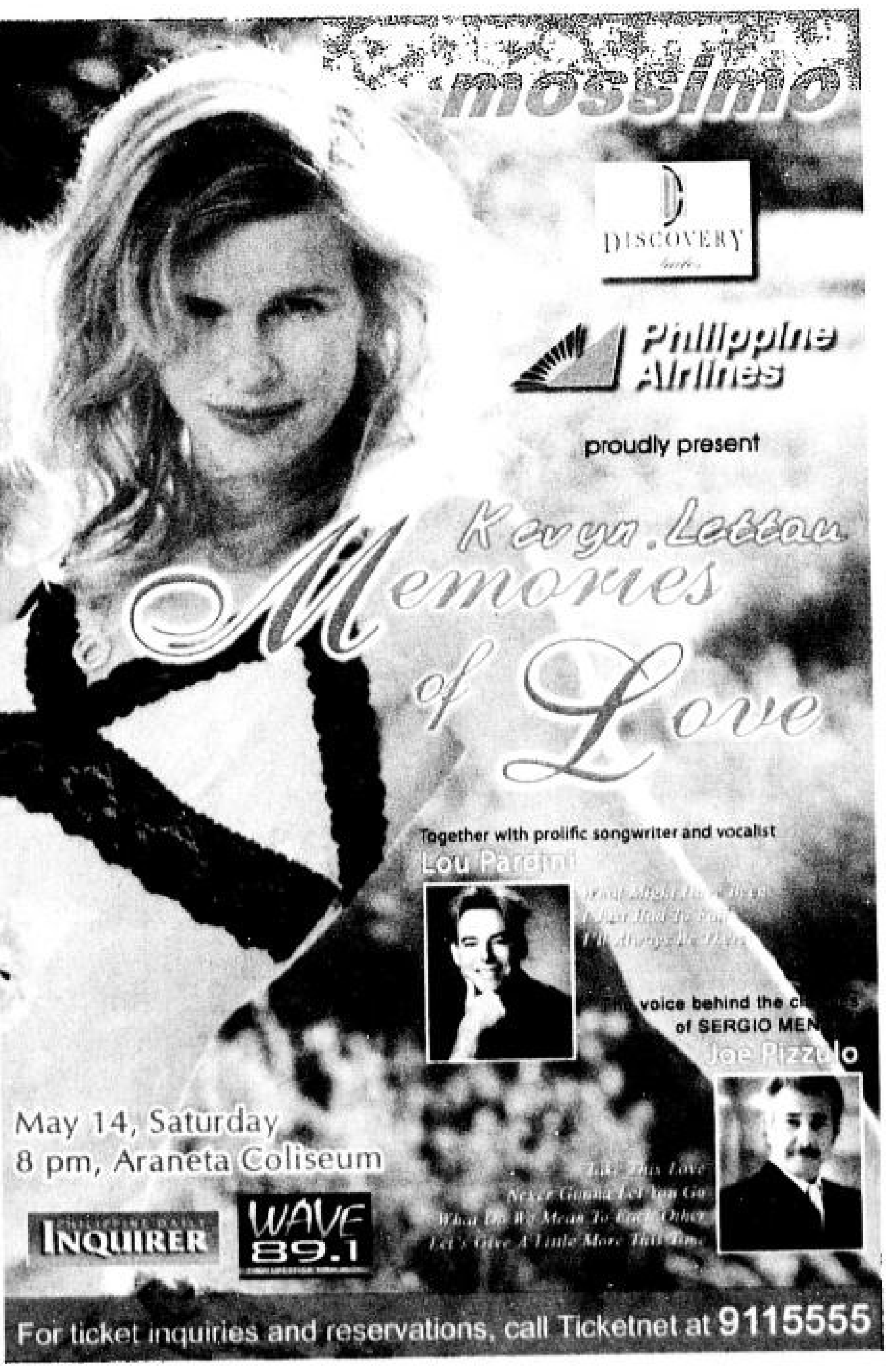

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FRIDAY is Roast Beef day only at Fiesta San Miguel of Dusit Hotel Nikko. Grab a slice of this tender and succulent roasted US Angus Beef that comes with your choice of mashed potato, baked potato or fettuccini pasta. Enjoy your roast beef with our Chef's excellent ponzu sauce or mushroom gravy. Feast on... afterall, you can only have this on a Friday.

And due to the increasing demand of Dusit Hotel Nikko's regular patrons, Fiesta San Miguel's "Grilla' Mania" continues until May 31. Guests can not just stop clamoring for more as they feast on a second, third or even fourth serving of their favorite grilled seafood or meat specialties for a healthier alternative to an eat-all-you-can dining during lunchtime. Diners can choose from "All Meat," "Seafood Medley," and "Combo Grill." Each order is served with a scoop of Magnolia ice cream and a glass of Earth and Sky iced tea.

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Wedding fairs will never be the same again. Five years since its last bridal exhibit, the Century Park Hotel orchestrates what has been tagged as 'Manila's Bridal Fair of the Century' which takes off on July 15 and 16. Pulling together Manila's best and finest in couture, styling, entertainment, cakes and more, the upcoming fair boasts of the biggest production seen in years that have passed, with creative guru Rachy Cuna at the helm. With no less than Cata Figueroa Jr directing the fashion show, the production poses as one of the industry's highlights, featuring fifty premier designers' most elegant and opulent creations. Consultants Pitoy Moreno and Ben Ferrales share the experience with fashion mavens Barge Ramos, Ben Farrales, Edgar Madamba, Edgar San Diego, Edwin Tan, Francis Calaquian, Frederick Peralta, Ito Curata, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Noli Hans, Ole Morabe, Pepsi Herrera, Rajo Laurel, Randy Ortiz and Toni Galang. Joining the Century Park Hotel are its major sponsors, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, ETC Entertainment Channel, Rustans, Dermclinic, 923 Joey, Premiere Wines & Spirits, Philippine Airlines, Tower Records and Music One, Foreign Post and Star Cruises. Proceeds of the event will be donated to the Home for the Angels Foundation, a home for abandoned babies, located in San Andres Bukid, Manila.

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CITY GARDEN Hotel Makati makes luxury affordable as it presents wonderful rates for its first class amenities. For as low as P1,350 per person on a twin-sharing basis, one can enjoy the hotel's elegant guest rooms and facilities, inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym.

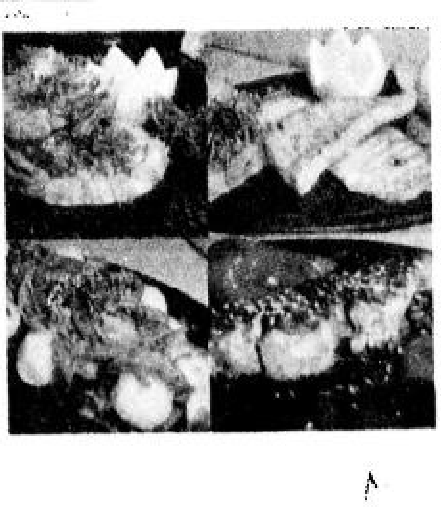
For meeting and conferences, City Garden Hotel Makati offers flexible meeting rooms for 10 to 120 persons, complete with conference/seminar facilities and professionally-staffed business center with Internet access, fax, and photocopiers, and such services as secretarial assistance, documentation, airline ticket reconfirmation, tours and transport booking, and postal and parcel handling, among others. Meetings packages come for as low as P9,750+ per day.

Chef specials for May at Rio Bar Cafe

RIO BAR Café, your casual but sophisticated restaurant is offering its Chef's Specials for the month of May. Be the first ones to try our new Japanese menu: Beef Teriyaki (Grilled) for only P295 and Yaki Udon (Noodles with seafood) at P175. Other specials include our summer treats: Battleship Ice cream and Sundae at P125 and P80 respectively; Paella Mania at P375 (good for two) is composed of beef tenderloin, porkloin, chorizo de bilbao, chicken breast, mussels, squid, shrimp, hardboiled egg, asparagus, green peas and California rice; and SMB Fest - a bucket of (six) 6 San Miguel Beer Pale Pilsen or Light with pica-pica platter or French fries for only P265. They have also extended their Billiards Special of one (1) hour billiards game with free two (2) bottles of San Miguel Pale Pilsen or Light plus one pica-pica platter. All promos are good for the whole month of May only.

'Dine, Wine and Unwind' at Cocoy's

IN THE tradition of Baywalk's famous gimmick craze and known bars' street parties, comes Palm Plaza Hotel's newest event, "Dine, Wine and Unwind" at Cocoy's Restaurant, promises to give the leisure that you need after a long day's work while not being hard on your budget. For May, take a look of our initial offering. Get one bottle of San Miguel Beer Pale Pilsen or Light plus your choice of pica-pica for only P99 or 3 San Miguel Beer bottles for only P120. Cocoy's Restaurant is also giving 30 percent discount on all hard drinks on a per bottle order. What's more, guests are also treated to a free videoke spree. Hurry, bring along your friends and be the first ones to experience a different kind of gimmick pleasure. "Dine, Wine and Unwind" is open every Thursday and Fridays nights only from 6 p.m. onwards.



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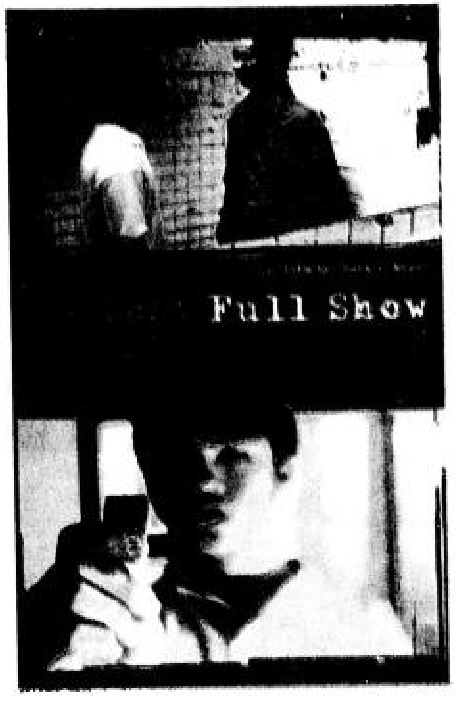

Fil-Am movie wins in Turin

FILIPINO-AMERICAN Mark V. Reyes' "Last Full Show" was declared Best Short Film in the Turin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival concluded April 27.

The international jury consisted of filmmaker Renen Schorr from Israel, writer Walter Siti from Italy, and producer Lisa Thrasher from the United States.

According to the German Website Queer.De, the jury commended the 18-minute Filipino film for its "delicate and direct style that doesn't rely on ... embellishments."

Described by a review from the Massachusettes-based Planet Q magazine as a "gritty, dangerous . . . but also exhilarating" take on love, the gay film was also showcased at the recent 2005 Tribeca Film Festival Shorts Program.

Reyes migrated to San Francisco six years ago to study film at the Academy Art University. In 2004, he came home to Manila to shoot "Last Full Show" in old moviehouses, among other locations.

He is currently working on the script of his feature film debut.

A very special gift . . .

From page A3-1

which marks Karel's first lead role in professional musical theater.

Pinky couldn't be happier. "I really love this musical. I watched it over and over while Karel was growing up. I never dreamed these roles would be offered to us! I still can't believe it. Every time I hear Karel rehearse the songs at home, I cry."

Karel, who is Myx Live's most requested VJ, continues to learn from her mother. "I see a lot of sensitivity when my mom performs. She has a strong, yet very gentle and moving voice. She puts soul into every note. From her, I learned to be professional, to be flexible, to listen and to always learn form my mistakes."

Pinky insists she also learns from her daughter. "I see in Karel a determination to always do her best. In her I see strength of character. Her musicality is very natural. From her I've learned to be childlike and truthful in every performance."

Each has a piece of advice for the other. Karel says, "I still have a lot to learn about life but my advice to my mom is: Life may be difficult at times but we need to go through rough times to appreciate the beauty around us. Keep your chin up, smile and pray." And from Pinky to Karel: "Life is like a stage ... we all have our own little roles to play and we must do it with the best of our ability 'til curtain call."

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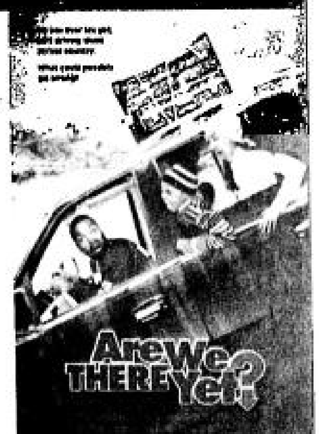
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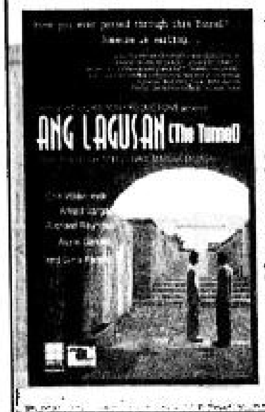

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11 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12 SAMARA: RING 2
sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
sm supercenter sucat
1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
sm city bicutan
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
LUZON
sm city pampanga
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 GUESS WHO
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 SAHARA
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
sm city baguio
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAHARA
sm city batangas
1 THE PACIFIER
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA
sm city marilao
1 SAHARA
2 GUESS WHO
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
sm city bacoor
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 SIX
8 SAHARA
sm city dasmariñas
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA
sm city lucena
1 SAHARA
2 THE PACIFIER
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
sm city cebu
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 CURSED
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
sm city iloilo
1 THE PACIFIER
2 RESERVED
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 SAHARA
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 GUESS WHO
7 RESERVED
8 THE WEDDING DATE
sm city davao
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE INTERPRETER
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
sm city cagayan de oro
1 SAHARA
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
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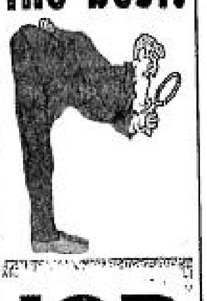
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2 (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER PG13
3 (DOLBY) AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 (DOLBY) IN GOOD COMPANY
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) GUESS WHO PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 (SDDS) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DTS) GUESS WHO
4 GOLD (DTS) PACIFIER
5 GOLD (DOLBY) IN GOOD COMPANY
6 GOLD (SDDS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) AMITYVILLE HORROR
8 (PRMS) THE INTERPRETER
9 (PRMS) FINDING NEVERLAND
10 (PRMS) CAN THIS BE LOVE

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1 (DOLBY) IN GOOD COMPANY
2 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 (DOLBY) AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 (DOLBY) GUESS WHO

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 CURSED
2 (DTS) CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 WEDDING DATE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 (DOLBY) THE JACKET
3 (DTS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 WEDDING DATE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ONG BAK
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) HIDE AND SEEK

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BOGGY MAN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ONG BAK
4 (DTS) THE PACIFIER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3020
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SAHARA

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 IN GOOD COMPANY
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AMITYVILLE HORROR
IN GOOD COMPANY
XXX 2: STATE OF THE UNION
THE WEDDING DATE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
THE INTERPRETER
CAN THIS BE LOVE
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
GUESS WHO
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 XXX 2: STATE OF THE UNION
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 TAGOS SA LAMAN

MARKET!MARKET!
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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 RETURN OF THE DEMONS
3 RESERVED
4 SEX & ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 TAGOS SA LAMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 XXX 2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 AMITYVILLE
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 XXX 2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE
2 RESERVED

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) GUESS WHO
2 JACKET
3 (DTS EX) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 WEDDING DATE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 GUESS WHO
3 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 (DTS) WEDDING DATE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 (DOLBY) WEDDING DATE
4 (DTS) ONG BAK

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 HIDE AND SEEK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KID
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 KIROT SA DIBDIB
4 (DTS) ALONE IN THE DARK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CURSED
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DTS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 TAGOS SA LAMAN
5 WEDDING DATE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 BOGGY MAN
3 (DTS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 (DOLBY) ONG BAK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 THE PACIFIER
3 THE JACKET
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 HOSTAGE

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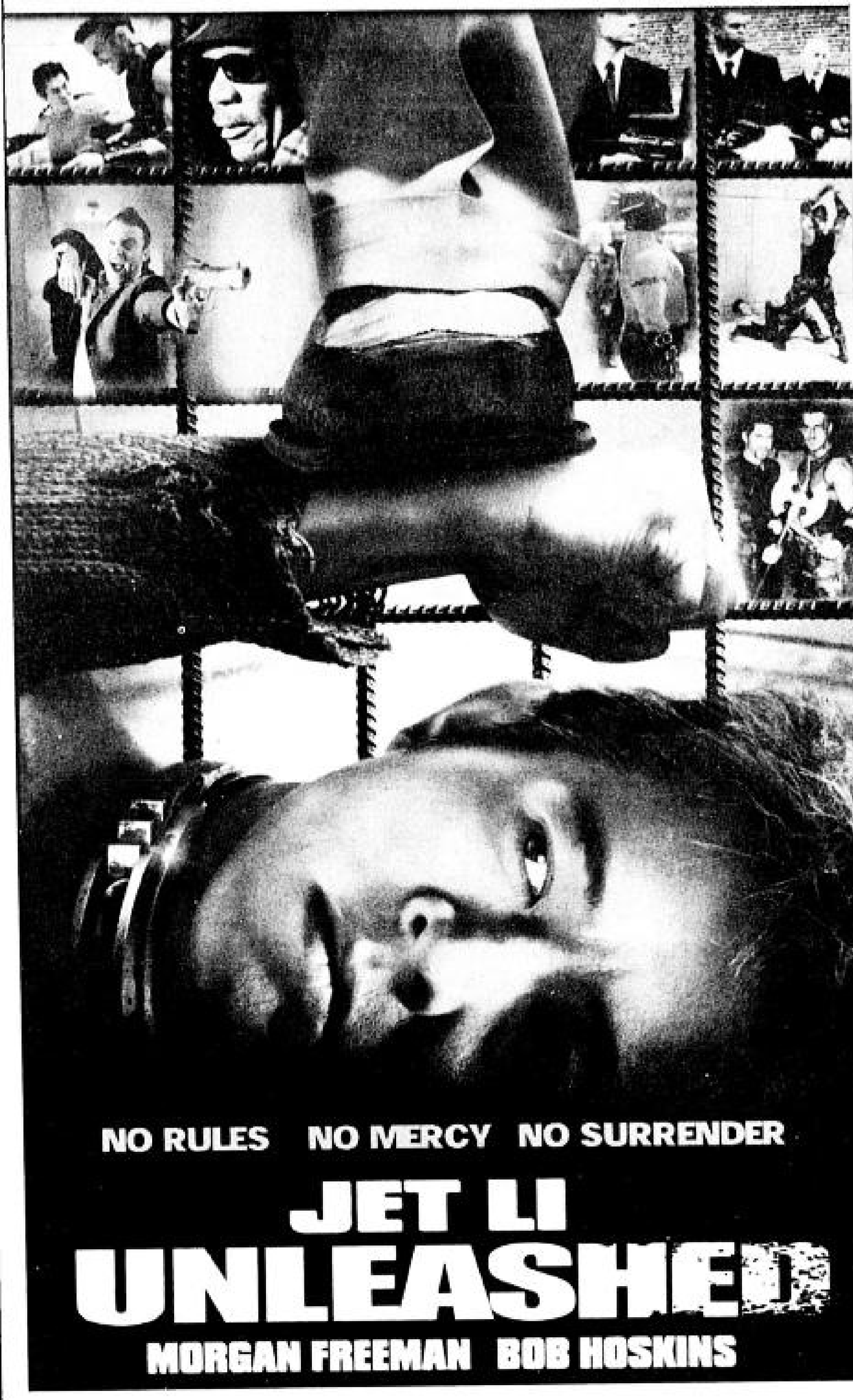
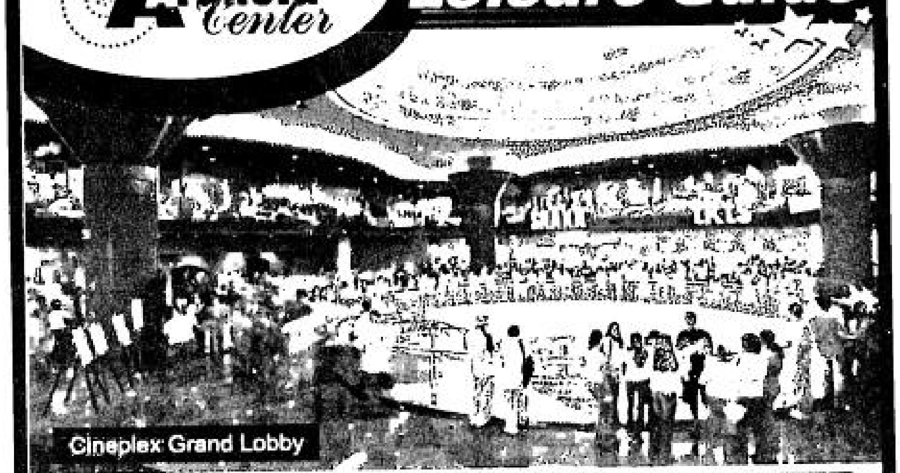
WITNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME
HUMAN COCKFIGHTING
NO RULES "MAN-TO-MAN" COMBAT STAGED IN ILLEGAL UNDERGROUND ARENAS AROUND THE WORLD

NO RULES NO MERCY NO SURRENDER
JET LI
UNLEASHED
MORGAN FREEMAN BOB HOSKINS

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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AMITYVILLE HORROR
12:25 / 2:35 / 4:45 / 6:55 / 9:05
IN GOOD COMPANY
12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
THE WEDDING DATE
1:10 / 3:15 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:30
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12:40 / 3:00 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 6:40 / 9:00 / 9:55
THE INTERPRETER
12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
CAN THIS BE LOVE
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
GUESS WHO
1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
Pre-Opening Screenings - KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:00 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
❷ CAN THIS BE LOVE
11:20 / 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00
❸ XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
12:50 / 2:45 / 4:40 / 6:35 / 8:30
❹ IN GOOD COMPANY
12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
❺ HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
11:45 / 2:35 / 5:25 / 8:15
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE May 13
4:45pm Shell vs. Talk N Text / 7:35pm Purefoods vs. Red Bull
THE 'C' SHOW
May 21, Saturday, 8pm
KEVYN LETTAU: MEMORIES OF LOVE
May 14, Saturday, 8pm
ASHANTI LIVE IN MANILA
May 26, Thursday, 8pm
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TACO BELL — *Get a FREE Tropicana Twister with every purchase of a Meximelt and 16 oz. Pepsi at Taco Bell on the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall until June 6.*
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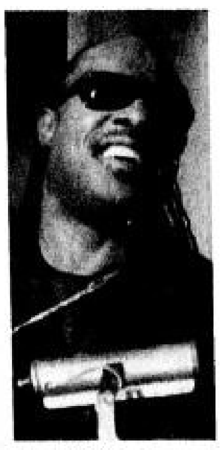
STEVIE Wonder

Stevie's video for the blind

LOS ANGELES—Stevie Wonder is releasing the first video containing an audio track for people who have trouble seeing, according to the blind singer's Web site.

One version of "So What the Fuss," from Wonder's upcoming album, "A Time To Love," will air on music channels.

Another version featuring the track narrated by rapper Busta Rhymes will air on channels with secondary audio programming, known as SAP technology, Universal Motown Records Group said.

Scenery

The technology provides alternative audio, such as descriptions of scenery around program dialogue, for the blind and low-vision audience, said Linda Idoni of the Media Access Group of Boston public television station WGBH.

Yahoo Inc.'s Yahoo! Music was set to premiere both versions of the video online on Wednesday.

Wonder, 54, unveiled the narrated video along with the traditional version of "So What the Fuss" at a Los Angeles news conference Monday at which reporters were blindfolded.

"So What the Fuss" is the first studio release from Wonder in nearly 10 years. *Reuters*

String beans and a string ensemble

FILL up on healthy dishes and hearty music at a health resort in Lipa, Batangas.

Tomorrow, for just one special evening, The Robato Ensemble, a group of musical artists from the country's top universities and orchestras, will serenade guests of the Farm at San Benito.

The ensemble's members are from the University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines and De La Salle University.

Under the stars

For P1,000 per person, the evening begins at 4 p.m. with a guided tour of The Farm. Gourmet dinner will be served 6 p.m. at the 85/15 dining hall.

Performance starts at 8 p.m. under the stars. Cocktails will be served during intermission.

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Farm sector growth slows to 0.55%

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AGRICULTURE sector, which accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product, grew by a measly 0.55 percent in the first quarter due to disruptions from typhoons late last year followed by a dry spell in early 2005, the government said yesterday.

The expansion was slower than the 1.35 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2004, when a series of typhoons damaged crops, and the 7.9 percent recorded in the first quarter last year.

The country's major crops include coconuts and coconut products, rice, corn, sugar and tropical fruit.

"We were definitely hit by the El-Niño dry spell and we are trying to mitigate its impact on the sector by extending assistance to our farmers and by implementing necessary interventions that can help them bounce back," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said.

Despite the bad start, however, Yap said there was enough time to recover and post 3-4 percent growth in farm sector output by the end of the year.

"We will maintain our growth targets, including the rice production goal of 15.1 million metric tons," he said.

Yap is confident the country can still catch up in the second semester, when crop harvests are usually bigger.

According to the agriculture department, the crop sector, which accounts for nearly half of the agricultural output, posted a 3 percent decline in production in the first quarter. Palay production was down 2 percent while corn output dropped 18 percent.

The government said earlier that it expected GDP to have grown a seasonally adjusted 0.5 percent in the first quarter from the previous three months as the economy continued to feel the impact of a weak agriculture sector.

The economy expanded 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2004 from the third quarter, its slowest pace in three years.

Weak exports are also weighing on overall growth. The government said on Wednesday that exports fell 2.8 percent in March, bringing first-quarter export growth to a modest 3.6 percent from a year earlier.

"The agriculture sector may be a drag for this year in terms of the headline numbers but where there is resilience is the services sector due to the strong remittances flow," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at GK Goh Securities in Singapore.

Remittances from overseas Filipino workers jumped 11.8 percent last year to $8.5 billion, the highest in more than three decades. The central bank expects a rise of 10.5 percent this year to $9.4 billion.

The government has set a GDP growth target of 5.3 to 6.3 percent this year, but economists

FARM/ B2

US DOJ ends investigation of RP telcos

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE UNITED States Department of Justice is no longer pursuing an anti-trust suit it was building against Philippine telecommunication companies.

A consultant of Bayan Telecommunication Inc. said the US DOJ had terminated a two-year-old grand jury investigation of the local carriers. The probe was aimed at determining whether Philippine telcos behaved as a cartel when they raised their termination rates for international calls in February 2003.

Bayantel chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa said the "positive news" was relayed to the company by its US-based counsel, Vinxon & Elkins LLP.

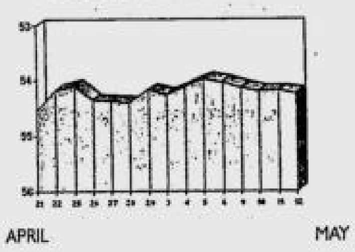
"The US DOJ advised the Bayantel counsel that the department was terminating its two-year-old grand jury investigation of the termination rates charged by Bayantel and other Philippine carriers without taking any action," according to a statement issued by Fafunwa.

Executives of other local carriers and concerned government officials, however, refused to comment on this report, saying they have

US DOJ/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱54.230= $1

As of 5 p.m., May 12, 2005

¥106.20 = $1

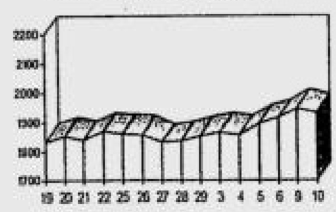
As of 5 p.m., May 12, 2005

GOLD: $426.00-426.50

per ounce Hong Kong, May 10, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks end lower

SHARES yesterday ended lower for a third straight session, hurt by losses in blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone and Globe Telecom.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 9.58 points, or 0.5 percent, at 1,911.75, after shedding 0.5 percent Wednesday.

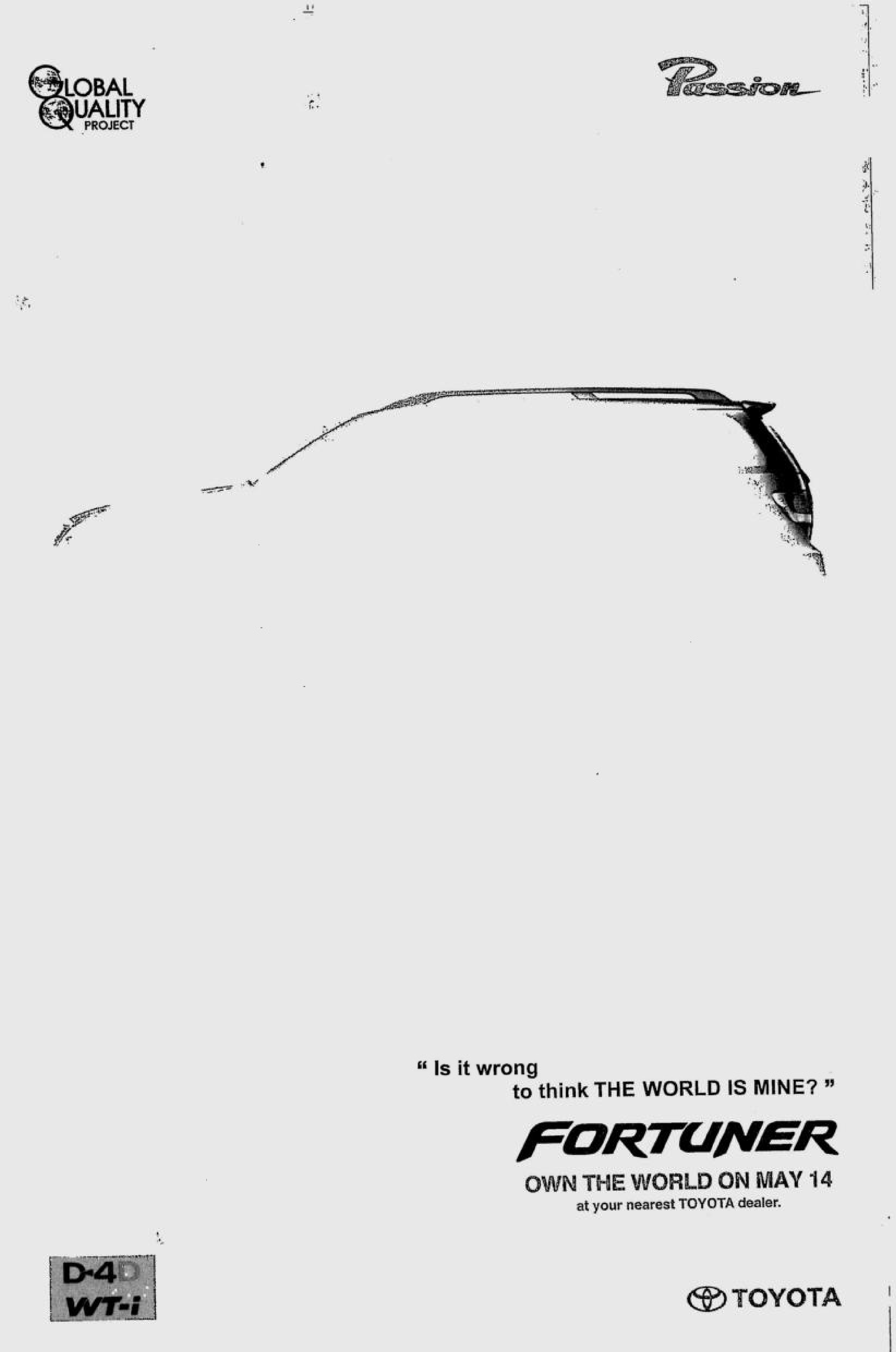
Yesterday's decline brings the index's total losses to 1.8 percent over the past three sessions.

The main contributors to the loss were declines in Philippine Long Distance Telephone, which shed 1.7 percent to P1,410, and rival Globe, which fell 1.2 percent to P820.

The commercial-industrial, all shares, property, and oil subindexes ended lower. The banks and financial services, and mining sub-indicators, closed higher.

Decliners led gainers 43 to 22, while 50 stocks were unchanged.

Partly offsetting the market's losses was International Container Terminal, which rose 1.4 percent to P7.50. AP



GRAND IMV SHOWCASE WEEKEND

The world is yours on May 14-15. Bring your family to your nearest Toyota dealer to experience Toyota's Grand Showcase of the finest vehicles- the powerful HILUX, the revolutionary INNOVA and the luxurious FORTUNER. Behold the sights. Join the activities. Get freebies and prepare yourself for a world of fun in an event sure to delight the senses.

Ayala Q1 profit hits ₱2.5B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING firm Ayala Corp. posted first quarter profit of P2.55 billion, about 200 percent more than the year-ago level of P870 million.

The huge profit increase was due largely to the sale of portion of the holding firm's shares in utility firm Manila Water Co. Inc. and property arm Ayala Land Inc. Contributions from its banking, property and telecommunications businesses also helped boost the profit figure.

Companies under AC Capital pitched in P1.18 billion during the quarter, inclusive of gains from the initial public offering of Manila Water.

"We are pleased to see the sustained earnings of our key subsidiaries, despite a challenging macroeconomic environment and heightened competition in the industries where we operate," said Ayala Corp. president and chief executive officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II.

"We are also delighted to have successfully realized value from some of our investments."

The consolidated net income of Ayala Land for the first quarter reached P1.2 billion, a 134-percent increase year-on-year, while revenue was up 88 percent to P6.9 billion.

Its leasing business grew 13 percent year-on-year after the expansion of Fort Bonifacio mall, Market!Market!, and with higher rental fees and hotel occupancy.

Ayala Land's development business posted a 12-percent growth fueled by higher sales bookings for projects such as the newly launched Sonera, Greenfield Estates and Westgrove Heights.

ALI's earnings were partly boosted by a gain on the sale of preferred shares of a subsidiary that holds a 15.8-percent stake in the MRT-3 project.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands earned a net income for the quarter of P2 billion, 22 percent higher than year-ago level. Higher net interest income and non-interest income pushed revenues up by 25 percent.

Net interest income increased 23 percent. Non-interest income improved 27 percent with the strong performance of the bank's fee-based businesses, particularly investment banking, asset management and trust, foreclosed asset sales, branches and insurance companies.

The bank's non-performing loans ratio was at 5.4 percent.

Globe Telecom's net income for the first quarter was P3 billion. Service revenue grew 5 percent to P13.5 billion as average revenue per unit declined slightly with intensified efforts to penetrate provincial and mass markets. Total wireless subscribers as of the end of the quarter reached nearly 13 million, an increase of 42 percent from the previous year. Subscriber growth was led by the successful relaunch of the TM brand, which broke the 2-million subscriber mark for the first time. Operating costs increased 24 percent however due to increased marketing expenses and costs related to network expansion.

Companies under AC Capital contributed substantially to Ayala's equity earnings. AC Capital's contribution from recurring earnings alone amounted to P459 million, 30 percent higher than the same period last year of P353 million. Manila Water and Integrated Microelectronics were the main drivers.

Manila Water posted a net income of P484 million, a 57 percent increase year-on-year. Revenues grew 29 percent due to higher billed volume and continuous improvement in non-revenue water (NRW).

Meaningful tariff review sought

THE MULTI-SECTORAL Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), a coalition pushing for trade and economic reforms, is challenging the government to adopt urgent trade reform measures to make the ongoing tariff review meaningful to the nation.

"We hope that this time, the tariff review leads to the immediate re-calibration of our trade measures, which our local industry and the farm sector have long been waiting for," FAT lead convenor Wigberto E. Tañada said.

In a position paper submitted to the President, the FTA urged the government to level the playing field for the local industry and agriculture.

The FTA said the unilateral, accelerated and one-sided trade liberalization measures implemented by the Philippines had put domestic producers at a disadvantage.

These measures included the lowering of tariffs and levels of protection for locally produced products way below those in its Asian and other global competitors.

FTA also said the ongoing tariff review should be expanded into a broad trade and development review, focusing on how the erosion of the agro-industrial base could be reversed not only through the above tariff adjustment measures but also through pro-active and forward-looking trade and development measures.

The FTA also proposed the development of an agro-industrial master plan which will promote the development of viable industrial and agricultural sectors based on continuous capacity building and industrial complementation.

"The government should recognize the mistakes made in the last two and half decades arising from a narrow neo-liberal development framework and should now institute the necessary corrective measures. The first step is to re-calibrate the present tariff rates," Tañada said.

But such re-calibration will not lead to sustainable growth if undertaken without any clear vision and program of reviving, reinvigorating and modernizing Philippine industry and agriculture to make them at par with the best in Asia and the world," he stressed.

ABS-CBN posts ₱114-M loss; first since '92

BROADCAST giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. suffered a net loss of P114 million in the first quarter due to flat revenues and escalating operating expenses.

This was the first time that ABS-CBN reported a net loss since its shares were listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1992. ABS-CBN reported a net income of P124.09 million in the same period last year.

Officials also said ratings in Mega Manila—consisting of Metro Manila plus Cavite, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna—slipped in the first quarter to 34 percent against rival GMA Network Inc.'s 46 percent, according to a poll by AGB Philippines.

For Metro Manila alone, which covers roughly 2 million households, ratings dipped to 34 percent versus GMA 7's 44 percent.

ABS-CBN chief financial officer Randolph Estrellado said the company maintained its lead in Cebu at 49 percent versus GMA's 28 percent; in Dagupan at 40 percent against GMA's 25 percent and in Davao at 61 percent versus GMA's 19 percent.

ABS-CBN president Luis Alejandro said the company would introduce new shows and reduce general and administrative expenses to be more competitive.

"We are going to review our cost structure. The mere fact we made this as an intent is a clear understanding that we have to be more competitive," Alejandro said.

"We want to return to profitability as soon as we can. It is a balancing act. We are not going to be very careless and squeeze production and creativity," he said.

Total revenues—consisting of gross airtime, broadcast related revenues and net

ABS-CBN/ B8

US DOJ ends . . .

From page B1

yet to receive an official communication from the US DOJ.

"If that is true, it would help improve the relations between Philippine and US carriers,"said William Pamintuan, senior vice president of Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

Fafunwa said Bayantel would discuss with its American lawyers the next steps to take given the decision.

The US DOJ opinion came a month after the District Court of Hawaii granted on March 23 the petition of Globe Telecom Inc.'s motion to quash the justice department's order requiring the telco to submit documents related to the anti-trust case the US DOJ was building up.

Globe said in late March that the Hawaii court's action effectively proved that it had no jurisdiction over the anti-trust case being pursued by the US DOJ.

The Hawaii court said it had neither "personal" nor "specific" jurisdiction over Globe.

The US government raised the anti-trust issue in January 2004. It subpoenaed 30 Philippine telco executives to appear before an American grand jury.

The problem started local telcos increased their termination rates at the same time to a uniform level in February 2003.

The US justice department required Philippine carriers last year to produce vital documents, saying these were crucial in deciding as to whether local players behaved like a cartel when they raised termination rates two years ago.

Farm sector . . .

From page B1

said it could fall short due to weak farm growth, and as higher taxes, needed to rein in a hefty budget deficit, cool the economy.

First-quarter GDP figures are due to be released on May 30.

GDP rose 6.1 percent in 2004, the fastest since the 6.2 percent in 1989 and better than the 2003 expansion of 4.7 percent.

The government has had to cover crop shortfalls this year by raising its imports of corn and rice sharply.

It has estimated rice imports would reach as much as 1.6 million tons this year, the highest since 1998 when the country bought 2.1 million tons due to the El Niño weather pattern. *With a report from Reuters*

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 24, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 25, 2004
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2004
5. Approval of the 2004 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 25, 2004 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 25, 2005 will be entitled to notice of and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2005. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 20, 2005, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 4, 2005

(SGD.) RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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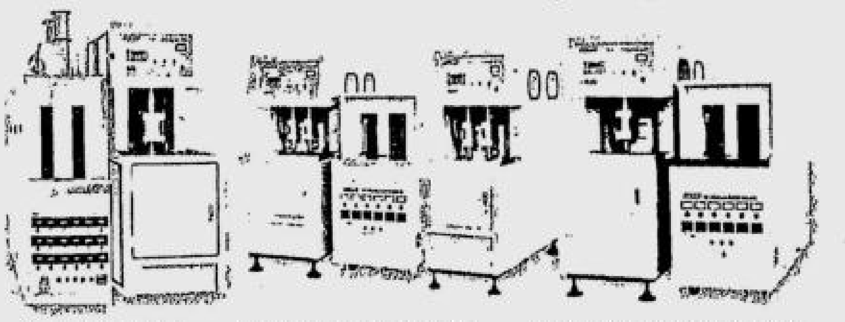

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EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILS.
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Helen's Pacific defense

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE REINA Emperatriz of the Yuchengco empire, Helen Y. Dee herself, will personally meet and answer any and all questions from the Pacific Plans holders in a no-holds-barred open forum—this we gathered from the pro-Yuchengco grapevine.

There is but one fine print: The lawyers from Villaraza and Angangco have advised her to wait so as not to jeopardize the rehabilitation petition,now pending with the Makati Regional Trial Court.

According to the pro-Yuchengco grapevine, Dee believes that the law and the equities of the case are on their side and that, after all the kicking and screaming in this difficult denial stage, the Pacific Plans holders would come around and agree that the return-the-payments-plus-7 percent tax-free, compounded-interest-earnings proposal represents a fair solution, given the ticking time bomb that the open-ended plans now threaten not only the country's first pre-need company but the multibillion-peso industry as well.

In the meantime, anyone who wishes to comment or object to the rehabilitation proposal may file his comment or opposition with Makati Judge Romeo Barza.

People power tactics

THE PRO-YUCHENGCO grapevine is acutely aware that the opposers are resorting to people power tactics, ironically the very same principles enshrined in the Spirit of Edsa monument in the gleaming RCBC Plaza, to force an extra-judicial solution in their favor.

Then again, the opposers, mainly from the professional and middle classes, are fighting for their own economic Edsas.

But even before the start of the court hearings, Pacific Plans has been quietly calling and meeting with the opposers in small batches, away from the glare of TV cameras and nosy newsmen.

Last Saturday's meeting at the Philippine International Convention Center was supposed to have been only for the employees of Yuchengco Group of Companies, who many also happen to have purchased, through salary deductions, pre-need plans from the sister company.

But, given the leak in this space, the organizers decided to allow the opposers to attend the PICC meet. If you believe the pro-Yuchengco grapevine, a number of the opposers, once the TV news crew was there, were more interested in acting like politicians in the campaign hustings rather than, say, earnest negotiators.

In any case, there is another meeting scheduled by Pacific Plans tomorrow, also at the PICC, and another, bigger assembly, also at the PICC, next Saturday. If the opposers behave themselves, they just might generate more light than heat.

SanLo terror threat

A HOUSE renovation in San Lorenzo Village has prompted the security-conscious US Embassy to raise its own terror alert.

The security alert was prompted by the ongoing "non-residential construction" at the corner of Hernandez Street and Pasay Road, opposite the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden.

"If this project is completed as planned, the security level in the village will be drastically reduced," said Jaime Barker, US Embassy housing officer.

"Should this structure become a reality, it could greatly reduce the US Embassy's ability to continue residential leasing activity in San Lorenzo Village."

It is not immediately clear why the proposed three-story building, owned by Adela LaO, would create a security threat among the diplomats living in the village, and why it would affect the Americans particularly.

But the US Embassy housing officer's warning was more than enough to send the San Lorenzo Village Association quaking.

A day after the US Embassy fired off the letter, village president Valeriano del Rosario formed a committee composed of Ambassador Delia Rosal, Jessie Estaquio and Ambassador Johhny Ona "to defend against ... and to assist in stopping the unwanted and illegal intrusion..."

"If the United States Embassy withdraws its staff from San Lorenzo Village, we can all rest assured that the security conscious embassies such as Japan, Canada and the European Community countries will also shun our village," Del Rosario wrote the San Lorenzo homeowners.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the economic equation is very clear—a drop in the rental values within the village is equal to a drop in all our property values."

Money-go-round

- THE ASIAN Institute of Management has three new trustees in its board, all successful AIM alumni, in the persons of Jollibee president Antonio Tan Caktiong, PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno and Francis Estrada, president of Equity Managers Asia, replacing an equal number of Ateneans and La Sallites who have to go back to and shore up their respective businesses.
- FORMER SEC Chair Lilia Bautista's promised appointment as the country's ambassador to Brussels has been derailed by her approval of the now controversial Pacific Plans restructuring program.

Heard through the grapevine

A RETIRED general had to resign his SBMA appointment after his own wife protested his application to procure two weekend houses—one for the family and one for a special lady friend—within the former US naval base.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

GOINGS ON

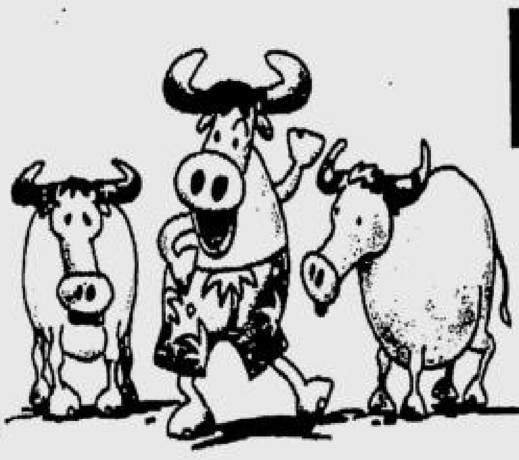
Agrarian reform products on sale

HUNDREDS of food and non-food products produced and manufactured by Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries around the country will be up for sale at the annual Agraryo Trade Fair (ATF) slated next month. The trade fair features natural produce as well as unique products made from raw materials abundant in the agrarian reform communities. This year's ATF is scheduled on June 8-12 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The ATF is a major activity under the Department of Land Reform's Marketing Assistance Program of the Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development. The National Agribusiness Corp., the corporate arm of the DLR, is at the helm.

Foreign Chambers SME Trade Fair

THE FOREIGN Chambers Small and Medium Enterprise Trade Fair 2005 will be held on May 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Trade Secretary Juan Santos will be the guest speaker at the Joint Chambers Luncheon to be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on May 13.



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Petron official hopes to recover $100-M Clean Air Act investment

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN officials of the Petron Corp. decided to sink in $100 million to put up new facilities to comply with the Clean Air Act (CAA), they expected the investment to cost them about P1 a liter at the pump.

But officials of the oil firm are not fazed. The increase in the efficiency of their operations resulting from the use of the new equipment will, in the long run, reduce the prices of their oil products, Petron officials said.

Khalid Al-Faddagh, Petron president and chief executive, said operational efficiencies could reduce prices by up to P1.20 a liter. This would offset the P1-a-liter cost of their investment.

"But we'll need at least one quarter to stabilize and assess the performance of the facilities," Al-Faddagh said.

The Petron president also said that the cost of the investment would not be passed on to consumers by increasing pump prices.

Petron last week inaugurated the new $100-million facilities at its Bataan refinery. Petron is the first oil company in the country that can produce its own CAA-compliant fuel.

Petron's new Gasoil Hydrotreater (GOHT) and Light Virgin Naphtha Isomerization unit (Isom) have the capacity to produce 22,000 barrels and 10,000 barrels a day, respectively, of CAA-compliant diesel and gasoline.

The GOHT reduces the sulfur content in diesel, while the Isom allows the production of gasoline containing only 35 percent of aromatics and 2 percent of benzene, as the CAA prescribed.

As a result, Al-Faddagh said Petron would no longer have to import additives to make its fuels CAA-compliant. This would not only make Petron more efficient, it would also allow it to generate foreign exchange savings that would shield the company from forex fluctuations.

Also, he said, Petron would no longer need to buy expensive crude types such as the Arab super light and extra light.

"The more efficient we become in processing crude, the better it is for us and the consumers," Al-Faddagh said. "We'll have better advantage in terms of pricing, and we're hoping consumers will benefit from that."

However, he declined to disclose exactly how much the company would save from the non-importation of expensive crude and fuel additives.

While saying that operational efficiencies would offset the cost of the oil firm's $100-million investment, Al-Faddagh added that Petron also expected reasonable returns from this particular investment.

He said the company was also keen on seeking government incentives for the new facilities, as well as for many others to come in the future.

Petron has committed to invest around $350 million over the next five to eight years to bankroll several projects that will strengthen its refinery operations and expand its product base.

The company's refinery in Limay, Bataan, has the capacity to produce 180,000 barrels per day of a full range of petroleum products including gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas, jet fuel, kerosene, fuel oil and mixed xylene.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LAND REFORM
SORSOGON PROVINCIAL LAND REFORM OFFICE
Balogo, Sorsogon, City
Tel. Nos. (056) 211-1591; (056) 211-2460

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Land Reform (DLR), hereby subjects under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program the following landholdings, to wit:

NAME OF OWNER	TITLE No./ TAX DEC No.	LOT/SURVEY No.	AREA (ha.)	LOCATION
Hrs. of Teodoro R. Labayo	T-8627	1223	2.1365	Benran, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Leopoldo Habelito	P-5303	8157	1.3238	Dita, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Pablo Moncada	P-9741	3011	0.3403	Anman, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Pablo Moncada	P-4647	1778	0.3181	Anman, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Margarita Embate	P-7045	9514	1.8807	Payawin, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Margarita Embate	–	4	0.2925	Dita, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Margarita Embate	–	8	0.3623	Dita, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Margarita Embate	–	9	0.2485	Dita, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Andres Pura	T-37627	9351	8.0518	Tins, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Paz Pura Mangaoang	P-13943	2810	1.1810	Tabi, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Ramon Estipona	P-5213	1345	0.3450	San Ignacio, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Pablo Moncada	–	3325	0.6310	Buenavista, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Purificacion Estaras	–	1265	1.4774	Benran, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Purificacion Estaras	–	1470	3.0530	San Ignacio, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Purificacion Estaras	–	2625	1.8788	Bulacao, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Purificacion Estaras	–	2476	3.7312	Bulacao, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Purificacion Estaras	–	1434	0.4538	San Ignacio, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Juan Chiao	–	8131	0.6945	Dita, Gubat, Sorsogon
Francisco Encinas	–	7615	2.5269	Jupi, Gubat, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Ramon Estipona	–	7620	0.3118	Jupi, Gubat, Sorsogon
Leoncia Jerusalem	–	1564	2.5555	Tabi, Gubat, Sorsogon
Leoncia Jerusalem	–	1305	0.6181	San Ignacio, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	1779	1.8494	Anman, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	1516	1.3117	Benran, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	7857	1.1835	Tagaytay, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	1779	2.0000	Anman, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	6502	29.4515	Bentuco, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	11421	1.0354	Tagaytay, Gubat, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	7862	8.3823	Tagaytay, Gubat, Sorsogon
Socorro Villaroya	P-2980	4614-C	3.3823	Tigkiw, Gubat, Sorsogon
Rosario Hagad	P-5303	8157	1.3238	Dita, Gubat, Sorsogon
Socorro Sabater	P-21515	4067-B	2.2692	San Antonio, Barcelona , Sor.
Lourdes Derpo	T-31244	3907	4.6715	Fabrica, Barcelona, Sorsogon
Geronimo Garcia, Jr./Feliciano Embile	UT	5311	0.9877	San Isidro, Barcelona, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Paciente Halum	P-9069	924	2.1238	San Isidro, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Paciente Halum	P-9068	933	3.1952	San Isidro, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Paciente Halum	P-9067	1209	0.2166	San Isidro, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Nicanor Fortin	P-8365	2763	1.1495	Lalud, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Nicanor Fortin	P-8364	2767	4.6898	Lalud, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Nicanor Fortin	P-9301	2775	0.6859	Lalud, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Paz Jao-Maghari	P-27868	3568	4.8980	San Roque, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Paz Jao-Maghari	P-22882	–	0.3166	San Roque, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Paz Jao-Maghari	P-27869	–	4.3474	San Roque, Bulusan, Sorsogon
Pilar Galias	–	1350	0.8991	San Isidro, Irosin, Sorsogon
Oscar Espenilla	–	496, 487, 492	3.1000	Tinampo, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Rufino Golpo	–	990	4.7500	Bulawan, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Raymundo Jayco	–	508	8.1500	Monbon, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Marcelino Michelena	–	2024	8.0350	Tongdol, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Marcelino Michelena	–	1996	8.5094	Tongdol, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Herman de Ortube	–	2656	2.5411	Bagsangan, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Melanio Calinisan	–	3186	17.8675	Tabon-Tabon, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Miguel Balubar	–	479-A,B,C & D	1.8373	Tinampo, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Miguel Balubar	–	478-A,B,C & D	1.3941	Tinampo, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Miguel Balubar	–	483-A,B & C	0.9398	Tinampo, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Miguel Balubar	–	2562-A & B	1.7741	Bagsangan, Irosin, Sorsogon
Ortube Dev't. Corp.	–	2656	2.5411	Bagsangan, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Librada Gabinete	–	3541	0.1776	Buenavista, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Librada Gabinete	–	3519	0.1777	Buenavista, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Librada Gabinete	–	3523-A	0.3022	Buenavista, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Librada Gabinete	–	2472	0.9615	Buenavista, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Norberto Funng	–	1332-A	0.8798	Batang, Irosin, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Norberto Funng	–	1392	2.8163	Batang, Irosin, Sorsogon
Elvira de Castro/Dionisia de Castro, Manuel de Castro	T-1909	2425, 2457, 2272, 2367, 3250, 3247, 3248, 3243	72.1985	Pili, Magallanes, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	3980	2.6628	San Rafael, Pilar, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	4530	2.9242	San Rafael, Pilar, Sorsogon
Phil. I.C.	–	4592	0.6850	San Rafael, Pilar, Sorsogon
Sps. Esteban & Cresencia Chu	T-27060	596-E	14.6977	San Antonio, Pilar, Sorsogon
Sps. Esteban & Cresencia Chu	T-27060	596-Q	17.3407	San Antonio, Pilar, Sorsogon
Rosa Mendez	P-4800	4348	7.1557	Calpi, Pilar, Sorsogon
Rosa Mendez	P-4859	4350	4.6280	Calpi, Pilar, Sorsogon
Miguel Gabarda	P-8072	4351	5.6810	Calpi, Pilar, Sorsogon
Miguel Gabarda	P-15157	283	5.9300	Pangpang, Pilar, Sorsogon
Hrs. of Teofilo Hernandez	T-1385	1-6, Psu-52843	155.6875	Palanas, Pilar, Sorsogon

Whenever applicable, concerned owners have the right or privilege to:

1. Apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage;
2. Retain an area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of RA 6657;
3. Nominate child/children who may qualify as beneficiary/beneficiaries to the subject landholding; and/or
4. Submit evidence for determining just compensation of the subject landholding.

To exercise any of the above rights/privileges, the necessary application or petition should be filed before the Government incurs any expense necessary for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding not later than sixty (60) calendar days from date of this Notice. Any late legal action that may be taken beyond the said 60-day period, resulting in the nullification of this CARP proceeding, shall hold liable for the reimbursement of all expense that the Government has spent for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding.

Failure to file the proper application for retention within sixty (60) days from date of this Notice is deemed a waiver of the right to retention under Section 6 of RA 6657, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the DAR. Within thirty (30) days from filing of the application, you shall submit to the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO) a sketch map of the area you wish to retain, failure to do within said 30-day period constitutes an authorization for the MARO to choose the retention area in your behalf. The DAR may disapprove your choice of retention area if it is not compact and contiguous.

The privilege to nominate your child/children who may qualify as beneficiary/ries is waived if you fail to submit to the MARO within 60 days from date of this Notice the proper application with the complete names of your nominees, their addresses, birth dates, and other relevant information in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the DAR.

The right to question the valuation of your landholding is waived if you fail to submit to the MARO within 60 days from date of this Notice, a Statement of Production and Net Income (Annex "A" of A.O. No. 1, Series of 2003) and other evidence necessary for determining just compensation under Section 17 of RA 6657, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the DAR.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 405 dated 14 June 1990, the DAR shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to determine the land value of the subject landholding.

(Sgd.) EMERSON N. MORAL
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI–May 12 & 13, 2005)

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RP keen on expanding air ties with Canada, India, Europe

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES wants to expand air ties with Canada this year, adding the North American economy to its priority list of countries that already include India and parts of Europe, a top aviation official said.

Tomas Mañalac, executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board yesterday said that the country's air panel would like to review air ties with Canada in light of the increasing number of Filipinos emigrating there.

Currently, there are only four return flights weekly from Manila to Vancouver.

"There is a growing Filipino community in Canada," said Mañalac in an interview. "Aside from the expanding market, we also see potential routes from Canada then to the United States east coast for our carriers."

Mañalac is hoping that there would be better progress with Canada, India and Europe this year.

The air panel, according to Mañalac, would take advantage of recent statements from the Indian government, saying that it was open to liberalizing air access to Asian countries.

Philippine Airlines stopped servicing routes in India as early as 1954, when then President Magsaysay issued a policy to stop foreign flights in favor of rural development program.

The Philippines, said the CAB, wanted to take advantage of the growing tourism and information technology industries in India where the population has reached more than a billion.

As for Europe, he said that the country's air panel would like to find a way to make it more viable for local carriers to fly to Europe. PAL had stopped servicing Europe routes in the 1990s.

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Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1002	1.0952

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	May 9, 2005	April 29, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.021124	1.018251
Balanced Fund	1.012067	1.001045
Equity Fund	0.992259	0.962047

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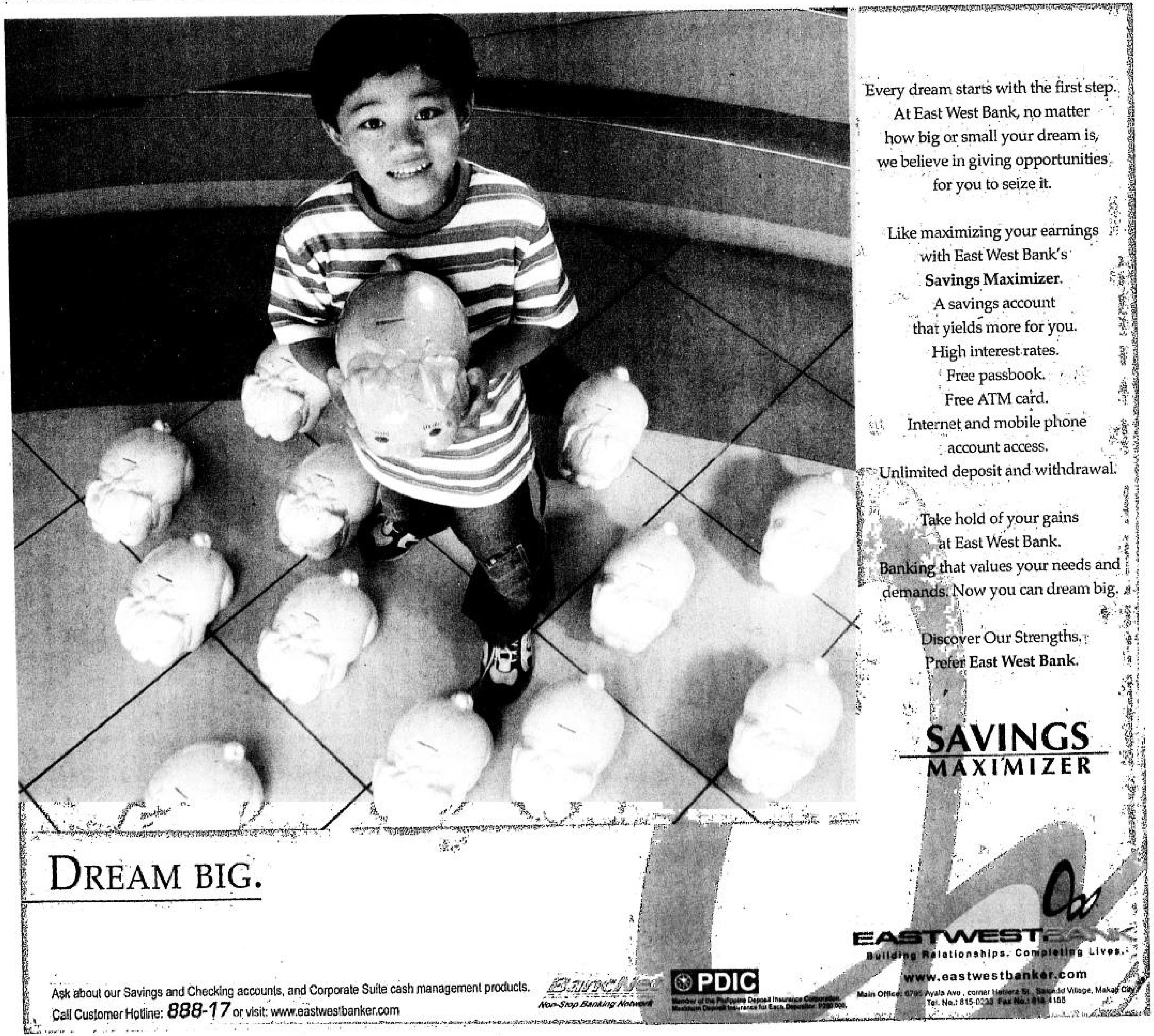
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 12, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	27.5	28	27.5	28	752,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50.5	50	50.5	855,300
China Banking Corp.	790	790	790	790	530
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.64	0.65	3,190,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	47.5	47	47	40,100
International Exch. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	11,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	32.5	33	207,700
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	112,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	4,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	8,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	280	280	280	280	200
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1690	1695	1690	1695	1,700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.08	3,790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	830	820	820	67,810
Ineogle Inc.	3.85	3.9	3.8	3.9	101,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	720,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1420	1425	1405	1410	168,680
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	630,000
Philweb Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	25,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	2,600
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.75	24	348,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	1,920,000
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.4	2,151,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	2,380,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	97,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	80,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	6,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.65	990,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	266,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	830,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	73,900
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	220,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	74,500
San Miguel Corp. B	85	85	85	85	26,600
Universal Robina Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	200,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	13,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	4,421,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.85	213,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	30,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	13	13	13	13	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1	8,900,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	90,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.225	1,690,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.32	950,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.75	2.6	2.7	1,136,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.035	0.033	0.035	4,600,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.2	8.2	8	8	456,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	1,029,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	24,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	807,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	22,240,000
SM Investments Corp.	249	249	248	248	284,690
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	120,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.175	0.185	9,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.08	0.08	2,300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.12	1.16	4,849,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.84	0.84	370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.46	2,661,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	70,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.35	1,640,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14	14	13.75	13.75	280,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series B	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
OTHERS					
'Far Eastern University	480	480	480	480	1,290
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	3,259,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	4,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.6	2,916,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.145	0.145	1,050,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	653,000
SM Development Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	8,067,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	4,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.5	4.85	4.5	4.75	1,043,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.3	156,000
Benguet Corp. B	43	43	43	43	3,300
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	4,110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	33,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	33,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	652,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	31.5	30	30.5	514,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
OIL					
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.5	35,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.16	0.165	0.158	0.165	3,430,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000

DISCLOSURES

CHINATRUST (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 21, 3 p.m., at the 25th, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

***

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. disclosed that its board chair Manuel V. Pangilinan had purchased 3,484 shares at P1,440.00 on May 10.

***

BENPRES Holdings Corp. sold 10.5 million Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. shares for P13 million last April. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 12, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780640	1.000000	54.1430
Japan	Yen	0.007383	0.009458	0.5121
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461671	1.872400	101.3774
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100109	0.128240	6.9433
Switzerland	Franc	0.647351	0.829256	44.8984
Canada	Dollar	0.625664	0.801475	43.3943
Singapore	Dollar	0.474871	0.608310	32.9357
Australia	Dollar	0.604678	0.774593	41.9388
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.070718	2.652590	143.6192
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208165	0.266660	14.4378
Brunei	Dollar	0.473431	0.606465	32.8358
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000106	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019813	0.025381	1.3742
UAE	Dirham	0.212546	0.272272	14.7416
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.281000	69.3572
Argentina	Peso	0.269884	0.345722	18.7184
Brazil	Real	0.314965	0.403470	21.8451
Denmark	Kroner	0.134385	0.172147	9.3206
India	Rupee	0.018066	0.023143	1.2530
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205459	0.263193	14.2501
Mexico	New Peso	0.070977	0.090921	4.9227
New Zealand	Dollar	0.570269	0.730514	39.5522
South Africa	Rand	0.126446	0.161977	8.7699
Korea	Won	0.000783	0.001003	0.0543
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025198	0.032279	1.7477

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Leveling Schedule

All participants are required to attend the leveling session on May 20 (Friday) & 21 (Saturday).

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US firm moves to strengthen call center unit in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EPIXTAR Corp., one of the largest call center companies in the country, yesterday said it had formed a "high-profile" advisory board in an effort to strengthen its Philippine operations.

Ilene Kaminsky, chair and chief executive of the Miami-based company, said in a statement that the main objective of its Philippine advisory board was to have the members, who are all distinguished industry and business leaders, contribute to the growth of Epixtar's business process outsourcing operations here."

Gregory Domingo, former trade undersecretary and managing head of the Board of Investments, leads the newly formed body.

Before his stint with the government, Domingo held key positions in the Philippine units of companies based in Singapore and the United States, such as being managing director and treasurer of Chase Manhattan Bank in Manila.

The other members include Roberto Castillo, former president of the Philippine Industrial Estates Association and former partner with SGV & Co; Bienvenido Laguesma, a lawyer and former Labor Secretary; Jack Madrid, vice president and general manager of MTV Philippines; Lydia-Balatbat-Echauz, president and board member of the Far Eastern University; Roberto Antonio, former Tourism Undersecretary, and Francisco Sandejas, founder and managing partner of Narra Venture Capital, which invests in early-stage high-technology firms.

Navy property dev't to boost construction sector, says Asap

THE ASSOCIATION of Stock Analysts of the Philippines (Asap) said the Philippine Navy's plan to transform a 44.7-hectare property in Fort Bonifacio into a mixed-use development would "liven up the property and construction sectors."

Asap director Astro del Castillo said the plan, recently announced by Navy Chief Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon, would further enhance "the credibility of and respect for the Navy leadership for its decisiveness to transform an idle facility into a revenue-generating asset."

The project will involve the development of a commercial center and the construction of an on-base housing for Navy personnel.

De Leon earlier announced that the search for a major developer for the P9.5-billion property, which also hosts the 18-hole Navy golf course, had already started.

Del Castillo said "major development projects of this sort are always a boost to the financial market."

He said De Leon's initiative "is sure to attract the interest of property development and construction industry leaders.

Del Castillo said the project "can serve as a prototype for other branches of service in the Armed Forces." He said the conversion of military golf courses into productive business and commercial sites "could help push the AFP modernization program without a drain on national funds."

Vice Admiral De Leon may be setting an important precedent here which we hope other units in the AFP could follow, he said.

De Leon said the Navy was planning to build some 4,000 on-base housing units for its enlisted personnel and officers on a 12-hectare portion of the property.

Funding for the construction of the units will come from a planned commercial development of the remaining 32-hectare portion by a prospective developer.

Revenues to be generated from the commercial development may also be used to help the AFP modernization program, he added.

AUB profit up 210% in Q1

ASIA United Bank (AUB), a medium-sized commercial bank, posted a net income of P295 million in the first quarter of 2005.

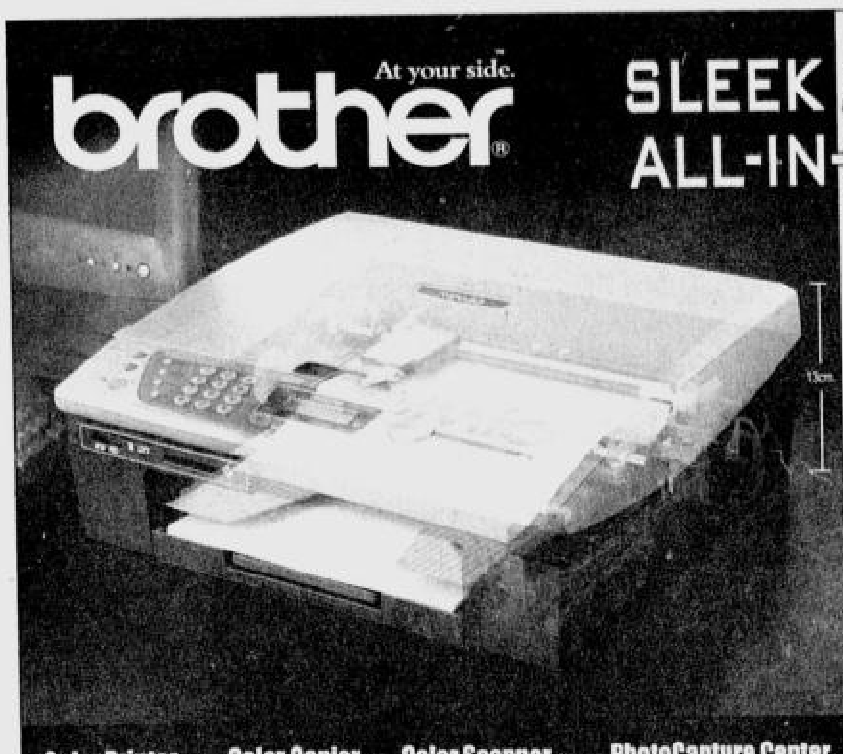
The first quarter profit was 210 percent higher than the P95 million recorded in the same period last year.

The net profit translated to an annualized return on equity of 24.44 percent, the highest among local universal and commercial banks for that period.

AUB's strong income performance for the first three months of the year was brought about by substantial gains from trading of securities, amounting to P175 million and a 63-percent increase in fee-based income. The bank had also prudently managed its interest differential income, which grew by 18 percent to P255 million from P217 million in the first quarter of 2004.

Total assets of the bank as of March 28, 2005 stood at P20 billion, up by 12.6 percent from its year-ago level of P18 billion. Total deposits grew by 11.5 percent from P10.1 billion to P11.3 billion, primarily driven by a 40 percent improvement in low cost demand deposits.

As of March of this year, Asia United Bank posted one of the lowest non-performing loan ratios at 6.82 percent, which is way below the industry average of 11.41 percent, a clear indication of Asia United Bank's business prudence.



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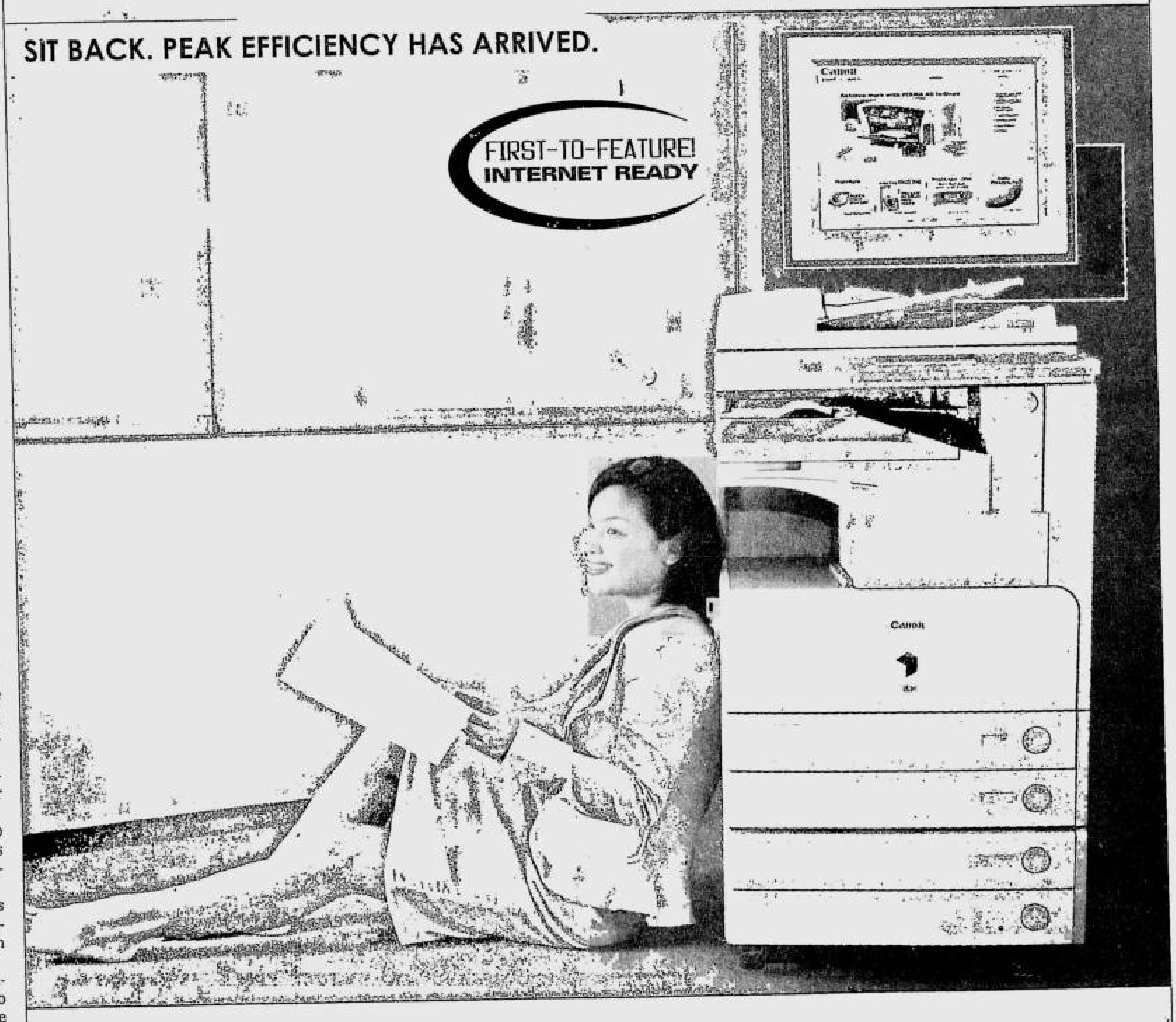

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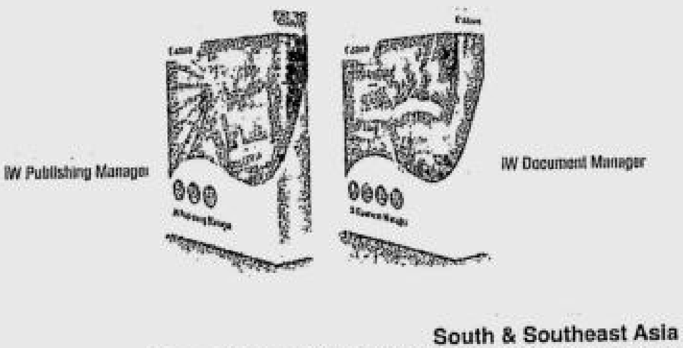

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GOCCs seen halving deficit in 2005

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance estimated that the combined deficit of the 14 closely monitored government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) would be cut to only P42.5 billion this year.

The combined deficit in 2004 stood at P90.7 billion.

According to Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio, who is in charge of monitoring the financial performance of the GOCCs, the budget gap would be reduced due to the proceeds from the sale of some assets of the state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor).

Napocor's deficit accounted for the bulk of the combined GOCC deficit in previous years.

The finance official said Napocor expects to collect close to P24 billion this year from the privatization of some of its assets last year.

The amount includes the $244-million down payment for the Masinloc coal-fired power plant—its biggest asset—and the $9.28 million from the sale of smaller assets last year.

Aside from Napocor, other monitored firms include the National Food Authority, Light Rail Transit Authority, Philippine National Oil Co., Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, National Housing Authority, Home Guaranty Corp., National Irrigation Administration, National Development Co., National Electrification Administration, Philippine National Railways, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philippine Ports Authority and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

Osorio said there have been marked improvements in the fiscal performance of state-owned firms following calls for a congressional inquiry into the handling of their finances.

Top officials of GOCCs, who received fat salaries, were criticized last year during budget hearings in the Senate after legislators found out about the firms' huge losses.

This prodded the Department of Budget and Management and the DOF to review the performance of some GOCCs for possible streamlining and rationalization.

The government agencies have yet to conclude the study.

The DOF has also initiated a study on the establishment of a scorecard system for GOCCs.

Under the system, GOCCs' performance would be measured against a set of operation and fiscal targets.

How the GOCC officials and employees measure up against the targets will be the basis for receiving incentives.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima also said earlier that the DOF would no longer tolerate heavy losses by GOCCs, saying that these firms were meant to earn money and not to further burden the cash-strapped government.

He said GOCC officials would be made accountable for the financial performance of the firms they manage.

Osorio said the GOCCs' finances were already improving.

The P90.7-billion combined deficit of the GOCCs last year came in below the P125-billion target set by the government.

Napocor, for instance, only posted a deficit of P73.4 billion last year compared with its P80-billion target.

LRTA only had a P1.7-billion deficit compared with the expected P8.35 billion, while NFA recorded a deficit of only P8.1 billion instead of the programmed P10.63 billion.

"Most of the GOCCs, which have standing loans, benefited from the low interest rates," she explained.

The decline in interest rates allowed state-owned firms to spend less on debt servicing.

Gov't eyes ₱7B in fees, dividends

THE NATIONAL government intends to collect some P7 billion in dividends and guarantee fees from state-owned firms, as part of their share in the daunting task of putting the fiscal house in order.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio said the DOF had prodded the government-owned and –controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) to comply with their obligation to remit dividends to the government and help ease its budget deficit.

The P7 billion in dividends and guarantee fees that the government wants to collect from GOCCs and GFIs is lower by P2.5 billion than last year's collection of P9.5 billion.

Osorio explained that the setting of a lower collection target was due to the dwindling of liabilities of the state-owned firms, as some of their loans have already been paid or assumed by the national government.

She said GOCCs are required by law to remit 50 percent of their income to the national government, but not all are complying with this provision.

Osorio said a number of GOCCs with meager profits have not been religiously remitting dividends.

The one-percent guarantee fees, on the other hand, is collected from state-owned firms that have loans carrying a sovereign guarantee.

This means that the government will shoulder the debt if the GOCC fails to meet payments.

In the case of the National Power Corp., the national government decided to absorb P200 billion of its debts.

The move not only relieved Napocor of its huge liabilities, but also took away its obligation to pay the corresponding guarantee fees on the debts.

The P9.5 billion collected from GOCCs and GFIs last year was composed of P4.2 billion in guarantee fees and P5.3 billion in dividends.

Of the dividends, P2.6 billion was remitted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, P750 million by the Development Bank of the Philippines, P600 million by the Land Bank of the Philippines, P231 million by the Manila International Airport Authority, P220 million by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and P143 million by the Philippine National Oil Co. *Michelle V. Remo*

Japan firm wants to modernize RP post office

JAPANESE IT giant ROA Systems Co., Ltd. wants to undertake the seven-year comprehensive modernization of the state-owned Philippine Postal Corp. (PhilPost).

The proposed PhilPost modernization plan has been submitted to the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee (Neda-ICC) for approval.

ROA Systems is committed to provide full financing support and technology transfer for the project, which is estimated to cost more than P3 billion.

"The modernization of PhilPost will put the country's postal system at par with those of Japan and Taiwan," said Tadashi Akiyama, general manager of ROA's international division.

ROA Systems, a Tokyo-based company, has been in operation for more than 20 years, providing key information and communications technology (ICT) solutions to private and public companies in Japan.

ROA System proposes to build modern postal application and business systems for PhilPost on turnkey basis. The company has completed similar projects for the Japan Postal Corp. These include their Postal Track & Trace System and Debit Card System.

The PhilPost modernization is pursuant to a presidential directive on the greater use of ICT in enhancing transparency and productivity in government under the 2004-2010 Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP).

The upgrading will also help boost PhilPost revenues, decrease fraud and improve efficiency in the government-owned and controlled corporation.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of Customs, the Government Service Insurance System and the Land Transportation Office are some of the government agencies that have recently implemented major computerization programs.

ABS-CBN . . .

From page B2

sales and services—was unchanged at P3.4 billion in the first quarter.

Airtime and broadcasting related revenues dipped 7 percent to P2.25 billion as Mega Manila Channel 2 ratings fell to 14 percent in the first quarter from 16 percent in the same period last year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Landbank seeks fresh $60-M long-term loan to lend to Manila Water

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines is seeking a fresh $60-million long-term loan facility from multilateral lender World Bank for relending to the Manila Water Co. of the Ayala group, banking sources said.

The proceeds shall in turn be used by the water concessionaire to expand its sewerage system coverage, Sherisa Nuesa, Manila Water's chief finance officer, yesterday said in an interview.

"Right now, only 7 percent of our customers are connected to the sewerage system," Nuesa said. "We want to increase this coverage to 30 percent. [The project] is in line with the waste water program of the company."

Nuesa said that the expansion of the sewerage coverage would also serve to protect the environment.

She said the drawdown from the proposed loan facility would be within three years, while the loan would have a tenor of 17 years.

The facility shall be denominated in yen, she added, and would carry a concessional rate of only 3 percent per annum.

Manila Water, which recently debuted on the Philippine Stock Exchange, also plans to spend P20 billion in the next five years to further reduce leakages and expand its service area.

The company is also planning to look for business opportunities in other Asian countries, especially on providing management services.

Manila Water, whose other shareholders are United Utilities PLC of the UK, Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan and the International Finance Corp., has also expressed an interest in acquiring a stake in the cash-strapped Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Proposed law scares business owners

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines yesterday expressed alarm over a proposed law that would mandate private firms to share with their workers 10 percent of the firm's net profit.

Rene Y. Soriano, Ecop president, said the measure would "scare investors away, worsen unemployment and force many licensed enterprises to retreat to the underground economy rather than pay increasing cost of labor."

House Bill No. 4193, authored by Baguio City Rep. Mauricio G. Domogan (Lakas-CMD), covers all privately owned business entities, corporations, firms, retail outlets, establishments and enterprises.

The bill seeks to require business owners and employers to share their profits with their workers. The workers will be receiving their share of the earnings, on top of the benefits they are already enjoying.

Under the bill, violators—whatever the size of their businesses—would be fined between P20,000 and P100,000, or jailed for six months to a year.

Soriano said HB 4193 was "unique because nowhere in the market economies in Asia—not even in Communist-ruled China and Vietnam—is there such an arbitrary measure that coerces enterprises to [share their profits]."

He said Ecop would flesh out its position on the matter through a circular to the participants of the forthcoming 26th National Conference of Employers on May 17 to 18 at the Manila Hotel.

According to the paper, which was penned by Ecop director general Vicente Leogardo Jr., the bill would aggravate the already decreasing flow of foreign direct investments, affecting economic growth and the generation of employment.

"It has been reported that the flow of foreign direct investments to the Philippines is one of the lowest in the region," Ecop said. "In 2001, FDI amounted to $1.62 billion compared to Vietnam's $2.19 billion, Malaysia's $3.55 billion and Thailand's $5.79 billion."

"The ability and motivation of enterprises to invest and operate depend on the economic and political environment which either enhances or impairs their viability and competitiveness," Ecop added.

The group also said a mandated profit-sharing scheme would sharply impair capital formation by reducing the ability of enterprises to reinvest retained earnings or net profits for expansion, growth and ultimately the creation of jobs.

"The bill is anti-labor because many enterprises now operating in the underground or informal economy would be discouraged by higher wage costs from being registered or getting licensed," Ecop said.

Ecop cited official statistics which estimate that there were nearly 20.7 million employed workers in the informal sector who are not protected by the Labor Code, while the formal sector employs only about 5 million workers.

"By discouraging investment and capital formation, the bill will further aggravate chronic rising unemployment and underemployment," Ecop said.

This will have "adverse effects on the flagship program of the administration to create 10 to 12 million jobs by 2010 primarily through entrepreneurial growth and development," the group added.

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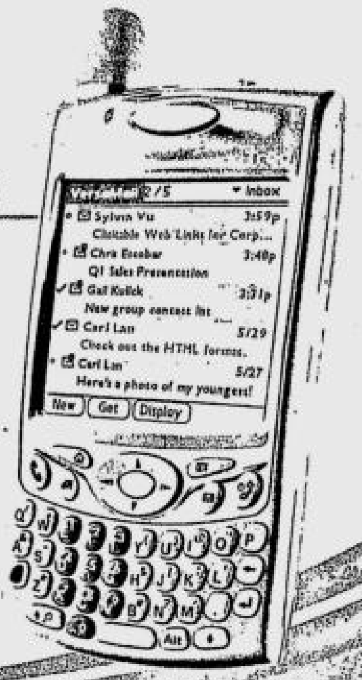

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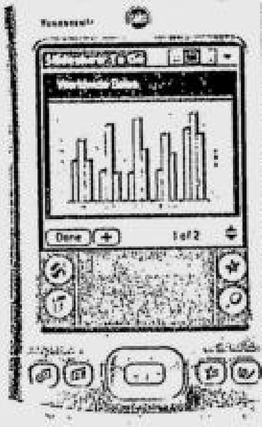

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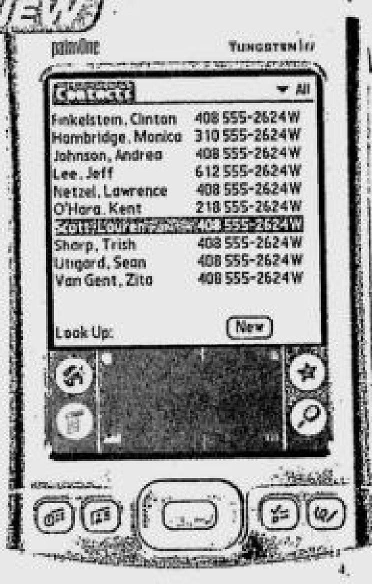

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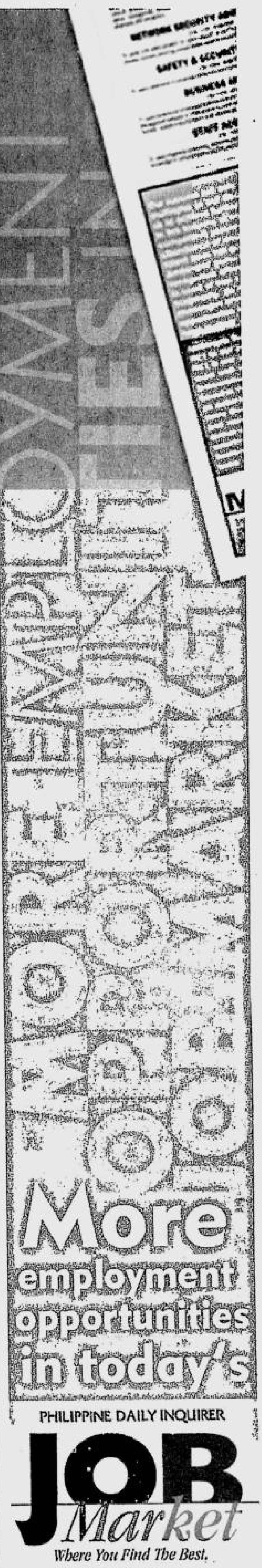

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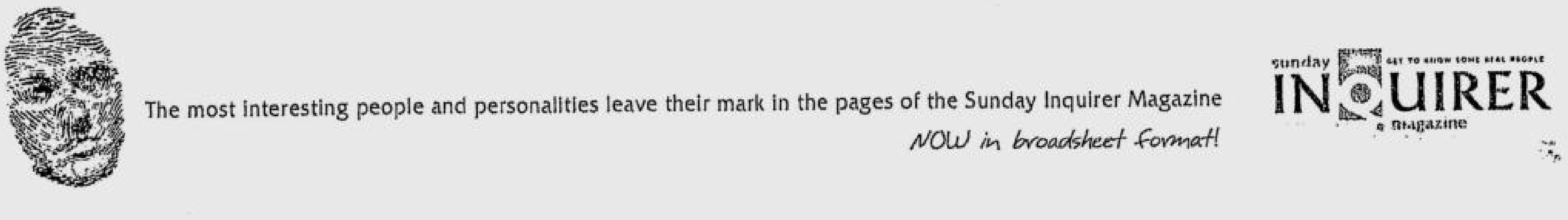

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US world's most competitive economy, study says

GENEVA—The United States maintained its long-standing lead as the world's most competitive economy in 2005, according to an annual global study released on Thursday by Swiss business school IMD.

Behind the world's largest economy, which has dominated the table for years, it was the small economies of Hong Kong, Singapore, Iceland and Canada which captured the top rankings in the index, designed to measure competitiveness in 60 economies.

"The vitality of entrepreneurship, the abundance of technology, the size of the capital market, the mobility of the work force, the quality of infrastructure are just some of the (US) formidable competitive assets," the study said.

Surprisingly, China's roaring economy fell dramatically in ranking from 24 to 31 in 2005, according to the annual survey, conducted by the Lausanne, Switzerland-based IMD, the Institute for Management Development.

"China's surprising fall, despite an excellent economic performance, is due to an extremely negative opinion survey conducted in the business community in the first quarter of 2005," said IMD professor Stephane Garelli.

"The sustainability of such a rapid expansion is being questioned while the strains on the financial system, infrastructure and weaknesses of corporate governance are being highlighted," Garelli said in a statement.

The IMD bases its rankings on a worldwide survey of top international business leaders.

In contrast to China's slide, Switzerland leapt from 14th place to No. 8 in this year's study, largely due to what the survey said was the increasing dynamism of its economy's international sector.

Swiss labor skills, security and quality of life compensate for high labor and living costs, Garelli said.

The 2005 survey revealed that global executives do not value low taxes ahead of other non-economic factors including quality of life when deciding where to do business, said IMD senior economist Suzanne Rosselet.

Low taxes may help make an economy more competitive by lowering the overall cost of doing business, but just as important is how the taxes are spent or whether the taxation regime is complex or simple, said the study.

For example, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Belgium displayed the highest economic growth rates in continental Europe, and at the same time, the highest overall tax pressure of at least 42 percent of domestic output.

Japan, by contrast, has one of the lowest tax rates in the industrialized world at 27 percent but has shown weak growth in the past 10 years.

"As far as competitiveness is concerned, the simplicity of the tax system is just as important as the level of taxation per se," the study said. *AP*

JET AIRWAYS

A NEWLY acquired Jet Airways Airbus A340-300E aircraft stands on the tarmac at the Chattrapati Shivaji International Airport in Bombay. Jet Airways became India's first airline to induct the A340-300E aircraft into their fleet on its long-haul Bombay-London sector and this is the first of three Airbus A340-300E with a total seating capacity of 269 passengers. AFP

US trade deficit fell in March to $55B

WASHINGTON—The US trade deficit narrowed unexpectedly in March to $55 billion, the largest drop in over three years as exports rose to a record and imports from China declined, a government report showed on Wednesday.

The 9.2 percent plunge in the deficit defied Wall Street forecasts and prompted analysts to raise their estimates of first-quarter US economic growth. But there was substantial doubt the improvement in the trade gap would last.

"This is a big surprise," said Jason Schenker, an economist with Wachovia Corp. in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It could have an impact of raising GDP first quarter from about 3.1 percent to 3.9 percent ... a very significant change."

Analysts had expected high oil prices and a flood of clothing from China to push the monthly trade gap to around $61.5 billion, which would have been a new record.

The trade data boosted the dollar against major currencies.

The monthly trade gap was still the sixth-highest on record, despite the sharp decline.

The trade gaps with the European Union and Japan totaled $25.8 billion and $20.9 billion, respectively, during the first three months of 2005. Both are up from last year, despite a decline in the value of the dollar that has helped to make American exports more competitive in world trade.

Imports of clothing, textiles and related goods from China retreated 21.2 percent during March after a 9.8 percent increase in February.

But imports of those products in the first three months of the year are 54 percent higher than last year, as the result of a surge in January when quota restrictions on textile imports expired.

Total imports from China declined 4.4 percent to $16.2 billion in March. That helped cut overall imports by 2.5 percent to $157.2 billion—the largest monthly drop since December 2001, the same as the trade gap.

Although imports from other major trading partners such as Canada, Mexico and the European Union rose during March, the overall tally declined as China and smaller trading partners shipped fewer consumer goods, autos and auto parts, capital goods and industrial supplies to the United States. *Reuters*

Nikkei down, EU shares up as crude oil tests $50

SINGAPORE—Swelling US stockpiles pushed oil briefly below $50 a barrel in Asia on Thursday and weak earnings knocked jittery Tokyo shares, but European stock markets looked set to rise after good results from BNP Paribas.

The dollar climbed towards a one-month high after news of a narrower US trade deficit, and on expectations for a strong reading on retail sales later in the day. Gold edged lower.

An MSCI index of tech stocks outside Japan rose 1.25 percent in Asian trade, as stocks like Taiwan's UMC recovered from losses early in the week.

Tokyo traders said that on top of weak earnings, worries about the health of US markets weighed on sentiment.

"Given reported troubles at some hedge funds that stoked fears about risk assets, few are willing to test the upside," said Tsuyoshi Segawa, equity strategist at Shinko Securities.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average fell 0.4 percent but Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.2 percent, and an MSCI index of non-Japan shares was also 0.2 percent higher at 1:40 p.m. yesterday.

Taiwan's benchmark index rose 0.3 percent, and Australia's S&P ASX 200 climbed 0.6 percent. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.24 percent, and world stocks as measured by the MSCI fell 0.1 percent.

Spread betters in London were calling the FTSE 100, CAC-40, and DAX indexes between 16 and 30 points higher.

Fuji Heavy Industries Co., which fell 5.5 percent, was among those disappointing with earnings on Thursday. Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. reported a 22 percent annual profit slide after the close.

Market players were also awaiting Friday's Japanese machinery orders data, a leading gauge of capital spending.

Tokyo earnings winners included Dainippon Ink & Chemicals Inc., which jumped 12 percent after stronger-than-expected annual profits helped by cost-cutting measures.

Nippon Yusen KK, Japan's biggest sea freight firm, lost 1.6 percent after it forecast a fall in recurring profit for the year to next March, confounding some expectations for a rise.

But Seoul-based shippers rose, after Danish giant AP Moeller-Maersk agreed to buy Dutch rival P&O Nedlloyd for 2.3 billion euro ($3 billion), sparking hopes of a new round of consolidation in the sector. *Reuters*

German growth highest in 4 years

BERLIN—Germany's economy grew twice as fast as economists expected in the first quarter of 2005 as buoyant exports more than offset a slump in domestic demand, official data showed on Thursday.

"Gross domestic product ... rose clearly by a real, seasonally and calendar-adjusted 1.0 percent in the first quarter of 2005 compared with the previous quarter, and thereby more strongly than at any time since the first quarter of 2001," the Federal Statistics Office said in a statement.

Economists had expected Germany to report a 0.5-percent rise in first-quarter GDP, according to the median of 30 forecasts in a Reuters poll last week.

The strong German data could lift expectations for first-quarter eurozone growth figures due later on Thursday.

Eurozone gross domestic product (GDP) was also seen rising 0.5 percent on a quarterly basis in a Reuters poll last week.

"On eurozone growth, the 0.5 percent growth estimate for the first quarter is certainly too pessimistic, it will be one or two tenths of a percentage point higher than that," said HVB Group economist Andreas Rees.

Germany accounts for a third of the 12-nation single currency area's economy.

Germany suffered a mild recession in the second half of 2004 for the second time in two years, according to revised data published on April 28.

Bundesbank president Axel Weber said late on Wednesday Germany's economy had had a very successful first quarter but growth was likely to slow as the year progressed.

Germany's government recently cut its 2005 full-year growth forecast to 1.0 percent from a previous 1.6 percent.

Private-sector economists and organizations such as the European Commission and International Monetary Fund are even more pessimistic.

Sentiment indicators, such as the Ifo institute's business climate survey, have pointed to a fresh slowdown in Europe's biggest economy in the second quarter.

The statistics office said first-quarter growth was driven exclusively by exports, underlining Germany's vulnerability to any slowdown in the global economy.

It said domestic demand contracted despite a rise in capital equipment spending, dealing a blow to hopes that household spending picked up in the first few months of the year. *Reuters*

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Summer fun at SM Storyland

GREAT summer fun awaits kids at SM Storyland, the country's most exciting indoor theme park, lines up fun educational activities.

Camp Storyland guarantees a summer "fun-tasy" with fun-packed weekends that give kids an opportunity to gain friends, play games, and explore their creative and adventurous aspects. This is open for both clubbie members and non-members as well.

After acting and dance workshops where kids learn to strut their stuff, they will have a taste of some extreme action in "Storyland Survivors" on May 14 at SM Southmall and May 15 at SM City Fairview at 2 p.m. Kids will be physically and mentally challenged, just like reality show contestants with a series of trials like orienteering, low ropes, high ropes, and other adventure activities.

They'll also have a chance to enhance their creative skills through craft workshops on May 28 at SM Southmall and May 29 at SM City Fairview. They'll learn to be creative while having fun with kids learning paper mosaic, stone impressions, pottery, batik spray painting, and other similar activities.

Kids will also have a chance to learn what grownups do in the SM Storyland Junior Crew days on May 21 at SM Southmall and May 22 at SM City Fairview. It's training day for girls and boys who would like to experience being guest greeters, park attendants, ride operators, and birthday party organizers. As to the latter, they will assist in birthday parties, and have workshops in balloon twisting, face painting, as well as magic tricks and clown antics. There will be graduation rites at the end of the day, wherein little campers will have a token to remember this exciting day.

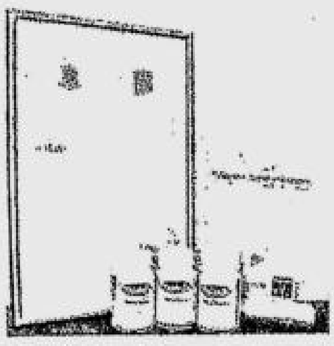
Enjoy Camp Storyland's fun summer activities. SM Storyland is located at SM Southmall and SM City Fairview. In the provincial areas, SM Storyland Fun Parks are located at SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, and SM City Batangas.

KIDS listen to a lecturer discussing TV projection, theater acting, hosting and reporting at the acting workshop.

Melatonin-T awarded for marketing excellence

MELATONIN-T, locally distributed by Trianon International Inc, received the Philippine Marketing Excellence Award as the Most Outstanding Sleeping Supplement (National Awards) at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel recently.

Melatonin-T was cited for its outstanding marketing performance leading towards marketing dominance, goodwill, high-level customer confidence and market acceptability.



The Philippine marketing excellence awards are conferred annually by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute Inc, Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and the Sales and Marketing Magazine. Awardees are voted by consumers and marketing professionals for "best marketing practices" through a combination of surveys, focus-group discussions and market research.

Melatonin has been shown by studies to help promote good quality sleep, relieve jetlag, boost the immune system, delay the onset of degenerative diseases such as cataract, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinsonism, arthritis, cancer and heart diseases. Melatonin experts believe that it may also help enhance sexual function.

Melatonin, which has been available in the local market for 9 years now, has gained raves in the United States for its efficacy both as a potent antioxidant nutritional supplement and as a non-habit forming sleep-enhancing pill. It does not have the hangover of a regular sleeping pill. The local Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) has registered it as a food supplement.

Like most animals, human beings produce melatonin abundantly throughout early life. But the levels in our blood wane slightly during or after puberty and spiral down gradually as we age, said Dr. Walter Pierpaoli, an Italian immunologist.

In one of his experiments, he gave the melatonin hormone to rodents and restored their youthful levels. They outlived their life expectancies by nearly a third. Many believe that melatonin may also have an anti-aging and life-prolonging effect in humans.

Pierpaoli and Dr. William Regeson, in their book "The Melatonin Miracle," said: "Melatonin can stop the downward spiral that we have come to associate with aging."

One's melatonin level is at its peak at six years of age. The first sharp decline is after puberty when one is about 16 years old. Adults at age 45 secrete only half as much as children. When one becomes 80, melatonin production comes in trickles. This is the reason we seem to sleep less as we grow older.

According to aging experts, many think this is normal or physiologic. But the low levels of melatonin may very well explain why the elderly have increased number of pains and degenerative illnesses.

The Philippine distributor of Melatonin-T, Trianon International, endorses it as "an aid to sleep problems, making one enjoy deep, restful sleep and waking up the next day feeling relaxed."

Trianon Melatonin-T is classified as an over-the-counter food supplement, and is available in Mercury and Watson Drug stores nationwide. Francis Melegrito, Trianon marketing director, said that the company welcomes provincial distributors for Melatonin-T and other Trianon products. Interested parties can call 815-3239, 892-0723, 892-0724, 894-0843, fax 892-8514, or e-mail trianon@i-manila.com.ph.

ISO 17799/BS 7799 awareness, auditor seminars

FOLLOWING on from the success of their ISO 17799 awareness seminars March of this year, Imaginet and Miel e-Security are running two half day seminars at the Asian Institute of Management on May 18 to create full awareness of the ISO 17799 standard for Information Security. Intended for CEOs, CIOs, CTOs, ISO and security officers, the seminar topics cover the ISO standard, what it means as a corporate officer and how the implementation of this standard will not only protect your IT assets but improve your business efficiency and business continuity/disaster recovery preparedness. Imaginet will also be running a 2-day BS7799 Implementer/Auditor Training Course on May 19 and 20 for organizations who are or have implemented BS7799 to assist in training business unit heads, new staff or auditors in managing and maintaining the ISMS and associated processes. Call Abi or Lolita at 895-9755 or 895-9745, e-mail ISO17799@imaginet.com.ph for registration and seminar details.

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GMA KEYNOTES ANNUAL MASONIC MEET

The installation of officers for the Masonic Year 2005-2006 of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines was held April 30 at the Tagaytay International Convention Center in Tagaytay City with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. The President is shown delivering her keynote address. At right is Public Works and Highways Sec. Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr, who was installed Worshipful Grand Master. The affair also marked the 89th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

'SUMMER PLEASURES-SUPER APPLIANCE EXHIBIT' UNVEILED

Automatic Centre recently unveiled its series of appliance exhibit at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati. Dubbed 'Summer Pleasures-Super Appliance Exhibit', it showcases the latest appliances from various brands. Present during the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Raffy Hechanova, sales and marketing Director, Concepcion Carrier Air conditioning Company; Cathy Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager, Ayala Commercial Centers Group; Dong Ha Jang, vice president, consumer electronics, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp; Ginbee Go, vice president, BPI Card Banking, Samie Lim, president, Automatic Centre; Irene Lim-Chua, senior executive vice president, Automatic Centre; Toshiya Kagita, VP, sales and marketing, Sony Philippines Inc; Reena Angeles, sales and marketing director, Concepcion Industries Inc; Ramon Arteficio, president, Canon Marketing Philippines.

HONEST AIRPORT JANITOR

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Romeo H. Pelaez, a messenger-janitor of Diar's Assistance Inc of Mandaluyong City, who found and turned over to the owner a black bag containing some 3 million yen (P1.5 million) and other personal effects aboard Japan Airlines Flight 745 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport March 29. The President feted Pelaez and his family to lunch in Malacanang on her 58th birthday April 4, and gave him a cash reward. Diar's chair and president Ernesto Domingo Sr and vice president and general manager Ernesto Domingo Jr also gave him a cash reward. Looking on at left during the awarding rite at the Malacanang Palace is Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman.

Bits Clips

1st Romblon Summer Marble Festival

BATCH '71 of Romblon High School gets set for the first Summer Marble Festival. The festival comes up with a celebration that promotes tourism and the best products of Romblon. Romblomanons and their friends are all invited to come and revisit Romblon on May 14 and 15. Romblon is not only rich in marbles, but is also a tourist paradise surrounded by golden powder sand beaches, fine hotels and resorts, and with a strong telecommunications infrastructure in place. The summer festival features sales and exhibits, bay walking, biking, and sunset wharf boating. The best buys on this 2-day festival would be rare pots, jars, and vases made from century marble stones. Highlighting the festivities is the "Hawaiian Style Summer Grand Ball". For more information, call 435-2392 or 0919-2219250 for a limited travel package to the festival.

Gig de Pio workshop

RENOWNED portrait artist Gig de Pio joins the Ayala Museum's pool of distinguished mentors and award winning artists and art educators as facilitator for an intermediate drawing course working on portraits and figures. "Drawing Portraits and Figures" will train students to understand the principles of three-dimension figures from extended observation and interpretation on live models as subjects exploring realistic and metaphorical studies. Students are required to have background in basic drawing. The workshop runs for 8 sessions from May 14 to July 2, Saturdays 2 to 5 at the Ayala Museum. For more inquiries, call 757-7117 local 29, fax 757-3588, or e-mail workshops@ayalamuseum.org, or register online at www.ayalamuseum.org.

Keeping fit at Eastwood City

EASTWOOD City welcomes the summer heat through fitness activities for health buffs and to chase away those unwanted bulges. Eastwood City invites everyone to join its free aerobics classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Eastwood City Walk 2, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. On weekdays, free aero classes are a healthy form of relaxation. With Eastwood City's open avenue during Sundays, it's time for you and your loved ones to jog around Eastwood City. The jogging paths are open during Sundays 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more details, call 687-6770 to 74 or at 0917-8-EWCITY and look for Karen Sta. Maria.

Seminar on refinement, etiquette

THE CORPORATE Mind presents twin-bill seminars "Etiquette for all occasions" from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and "Personality Packaging for Success" from 1 to 6 p.m. on May 15 at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly Manila Galleria Suites) on ADB Avenue, Pasig City. The speaker is management training consultant and personal development coach Joscephine Gomez, president of The Corporate Mind and who is more popularly known as a classical singer. Gomez has authored 20 different seminar-workshops in sales, negotiation, corporate communications and personal development. The seminar is open to professionals of all ages and backgrounds. For details, call The Corporate Mind at 687-7898 or 0919-8763770.

Ragnarok Philippine Championships 2005

LEVEL Up! recently announced that Team X-Site from General Santos City is the overall Mindanao champion of the recently concluded regional elimination rounds of the Ragnarok Philippine Championships 2005. The Kissbone team from Cebu, meanwhile, emerged victorious in the Visayas leg that was held earlier in April. The next regional tourney will be for Central Luzon scheduled on May 14 and 15 at the Olongapo Convention Center, Olongapo City. The 1st place winner stands to win P1 million. And just as important, a major component of the prize is that a DECS-accredited school chosen by the winning team will be awarded an additional P500,000. The winning team's sponsoring café will also win P100,000 for supporting the team. Ragnarok Online is today's most popular massively multiplayer online role playing game (MMORPG) in the country. The RPC 2005 will be held on June 25 and 26 at the World Trade Center in Manila. For more details, log on to www.levelupgames.ph/ragnarok/rpc2005/.

GTF productions

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation (GTF), in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee presents 2 special productions, "Ang Sundalong Patpat Meets Dalagang Broadway" slated on May 14, 4:30 p.m. at the Concert at the Park Open Air Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. These performances are the culminating recitals of the GTF Summer Musical Theater Workshops. There will also be a special participation of the Ballet and Arts Centre workshoppers under Noemi Ongleng-co-Silang Cruz. They will present "Bakit Babae ang Naghuhugas ng Pinggan", a comedy play that depicts the neverending man versus woman plot. Call 528-0603 or 536-5860 for tickets and other information.

Bonsai exhibit, lecture

FILIPINO bonsai aficionados will be given a treat this summer with a combined exhibit and lecture on this exquisite Japanese art at True Value Home Center at Rockwell Power Plant in Makati. Bonsai artists from different parts of Luzon and the metropolis will display their masterpieces at True Value from May 16 to 22 while bonsai expert John Dizon, will conduct his lecture on May 21. Bonsai, which first appeared in China a thousand years ago, has become popular all over the world as an outlet for both art and horticulture. For details regarding the exhibit and lecture, call 898-0910 local 301.

Pampering at Total Skinn

TOTAL Skinn Complete Body Care goes all out as it salutes our lovable moms with its special Mother's Day promo. For the entire month of May, moms who avail themselves of the facial treatment from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will also be entitled to a free Hand-in-Hand or Feet-ish treatment, while moms who will get a De-Stressing Massage will also get a free facial treatment.

Total Skinn also offers a special summer package. Get pampered with its Crystal Body Buff, Firming Body Mask and a De-Stressing Massage for only P2,000. Total Skinn is located at the 8th floor of Pearlbank Centre, 146 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati. It is open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Foreign Chambers SME trade fair

COME and visit the Foreign Chambers Small & Medium Enterprises Trade Fair 2005 on May 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. DTI Secretary Juan Santos will be the guest speaker at the Joint Chambers Luncheon to be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on May 13. This 2-day trade fair, now on its 4th year, showcases and markets a variety of products and services from more than 100 industries, including food and beverage, leisure, garment, equipment, infrastructure, telecoms and e-commerce, manufacturing, services, furniture, handicraft among others. What's more, visitors can take advantage of the special business opportunity seminars for SMEs at no cost to be conducted by the event sponsors. Entrance is free, only registration is required. For more details and inquiries, call Amcham at 818-7911 to 13; Anzcham at 755-8840 to 42; BCC at 816-7116; Cancham at 843-6457 or 843-6466; and ECCP at 845-1324.

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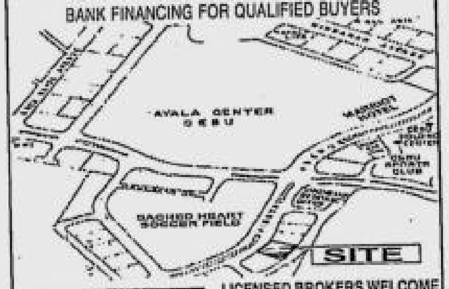

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HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

Bnew com/res 3br 2.8M 9487112

PROVIDENT MARIKINA near gate w/ 3hses owner leaving P5M neg RUSH 948-8240

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest2 Cor. 112m^2
3br SFurn 0915-4057078 Jun

Hse 4 Sale 2stry 4BR 4TB 2car grge Tel 8114071 8236047

KAMUNING bnew 3units
3sty thse #60 K2nd
PROJ.4 bnew nr LRT stn
Hi-Top #5-C Aguinaldo
7242629 / 4352186 / 4127311

LAGRO 4BR w/garage
260m^2 P2.8M Call 930-6625

VILLA ESPANA Araneta Av
LA108m^2 FA195m^2 2stry
4BR 4TB 1car grge P2.3M
4539180/81 Rene or Malou

•TALAYAN 5.7M
P3-6.5M 0917-5271188

SAN JUAN

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW
BnewTwnhse:3stry:3br:3-4tb:mdsrm:1-2grge
P3 665M op 8903461

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313220

MAKATI

1Lafayette sq. FA-119 2br 1Prk P7.5M 634-1212

MAKATI/MLA. CONDO SALE /RENT 0920-2403601

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m^2 2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843962

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MANILA

BAY GARDEN ROXAS BLVD 1,2,3BR 0920-9602940 RFO

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PASIG

Casa Verde Inner unit w/ attic 2 car garage P8.9M 8894769; 6475; 6337601/03

QUEZON CITY

EASTWOOD 3BR 3.8M
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SAN JUAN

Nr M. Paterno New: LA-130 FA-260, 4BR 4TB 3CG P8M 711-9051

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LOT

SAN JUAN

Araullo St. 531m^2 721-3127

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LOT

ALABANG

LA500 SQM / FA650 SQM 8BR W 81/2BTHS 2MSTR SUITES 1000 GAL STRGE DEEPWELL LA458 SQM / FA420 SQM 5BR W/ 4BTHS CALL MIREN 8422438 09189106748 BROKERS WELL

KALOOCAN

420m^2 P1.1M Balubad St Amparo Subd 09162318192 09175004436 Cholo / Marissa

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100,200,400m^2. Financing Avail. Moonwalk 09206540954

PASIG

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VICTORIA PLACE 267SQM COR LOT 0917-3268377

QUEZON CITY

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CAVITE

METROGATE Ph2 Dasma120m^2 @P3,200 09178439799;9136105

LAGUNA

192&271m^2. Financing Avail. Southpeak1, San Pedro 09206540954

Jubilation West Mamplasan LA176sqm 500K + assume balance Call Jona 0917-8997547 • 4713063

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park 0917-5213838

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

GREENBELT/Salcedo Stu 1,2, 3br FF 20Tup 0917-851-1193

PASIG

MEGAPLAZA STUDIO BARE P11T/mo Call 8204392/8252434

RIVERSIDE EXECUTIVE
TOWNHOMES
nr Ever Gotesco Pasig Marife
4213785 / 86 ; 09178356891

QUEZON CITY

Condo 3BR unit P25T
Donna 7248147 0916-7361390

SAN JUAN

2BR 2TB Nr Xavier 09173825198

Sn Juan P15T/mo. 715-3544

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612663 3610652

PASIG

SCREEND QUIET 2STRY 2BR T6354244 PREFRZ WO KIDS 4 SN CLEMENTE KAPITOLYO

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872805•

MAKATI

Sanlo/Urda/Dasma/Forbes 3-5 BRMS, Pool, T-8896475;4796

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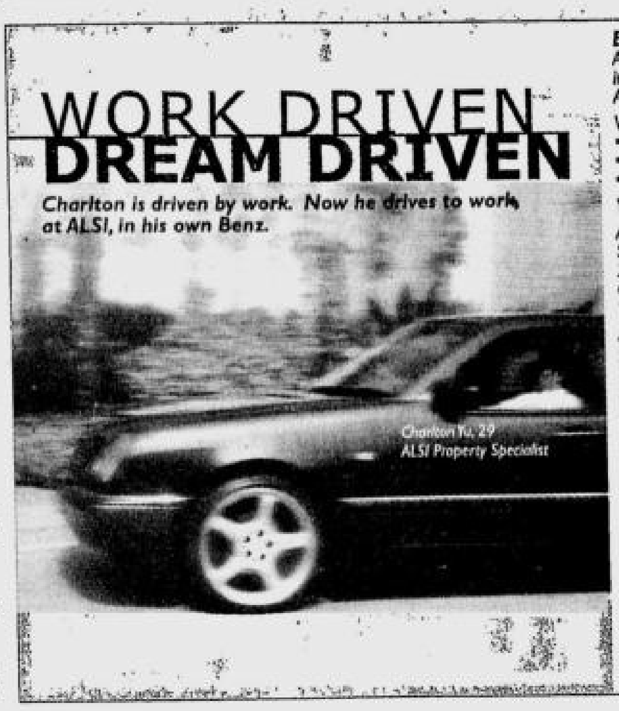

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ALSI is looking for young, talented, dynamic, hardworking and aggressive individuals driven to pursue a rewarding career in high-end property sales. And who still want to have time to enjoy life and relationships.

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ALSI is now hiring Property Specialists for Metro Manila. Send resumé with color picture to Ayala Land Sales, Inc., 2nd Floor, Tower I, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226. Or e-mail resumé to alsi@ayalaland.com.ph and indicate 'Application of <your name>' on the subject line.

ALSI is also hiring a Sales Manager and Property Specialists for Pampanga Office. E-mail resumé with color picture to alsi@ayalaland.com.ph and indicate 'Pampanga Application of <your name>' on the subject line. Applicants who are residents of Northern Luzon are also welcome.*

Submission of resumé is from May 8 to 20, 2005.

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

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AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of NOVEMBER 2004 will be auctioned on MAY 24, 2005 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI - MAY 13, 2005)

MUNOZ-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP,Roosevelt Ave., Katipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of NOV. 2004 will be auctioned on MAY 24, 2005, 2:00 PM. - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.
(PDI - MAY 13, 2005)

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Massuer 18-25yo 09204540607

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PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGIO OSMEÑA BLVD.,
NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990,
ppavis@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the operations of cargo handling services at the Port of Dumangas, under the jurisdiction of the Port Management Office of Iloilo.

Copies of the pre-qualification documents may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PMO Iloilo upon submission of an Official Letter of Intent and payment of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00), which is non-refundable, from May 17 to 26, 2005.

Duly accomplished pre-qualification documents shall be addressed to:

The Port Manager
Philippine Ports Authority
Port Management Office-Iloilo
Barangay Loboc, La Paz, Iloilo City, 5000
Tel. Nos. (033) 337-7791 to 93

Below are the schedules/deadlines:

Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification documents	- June 6, 2005
Dropping/submission of Bid documents	- June 22, 2005

The Pre-qualified Bidders shall be duly notified in writing of the schedule and specific time for the following:

1. Pre-bid conference;
2. Opening of Bids;

PPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) RAUL T. SANTOS
Port District Manager
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - May 6 & 13, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

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NFA monitors rice prices and supply via Palengke Watch

THE NATIONAL Food Authority assured the presence of affordable government rice in accredited outlets nationwide as it intensifies its market monitoring through its Palengke Watch program. The Palengke Watch program of the NFA is being undertaken to monitor the supply and prices of both NFA and commercial rice in the market. The monitoring teams are also tasked to look into irregularities or any illegal activities which may be committed by erring rice businessmen such as overpricing and diversion of stocks. NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr warned against these erring businessmen as he vowed to impose the corresponding penalties. "Violators may face cancellation of their permits to operate," Tan said. Tan said NFA rice is being sold at P16 and P18 per kilogram for the regular-milled (RMR) and well-milled (WMR) varieties, respectively. Commercial rice prices, meanwhile, are recorded to be between P19 to P45 per kilogram. For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF TAGUM WILL CONDUCT PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/REHABILITATION OF THE LA FILIPINA CEMETERY LOCATED AT BARANGAY LA FILIPINA, TAGUM CITY.

CONCERNED PARTIES WHO HAVE BURIED THEIR DEAD RELATIVES AND LOVED ONES IN THE SAID CEMETERY ARE ADVISED TO SEE OR COMMUNICATE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE LOCATED AT THE PUBLIC MARKET OR CALL TELEPHONE NUMBER (084) 218-2343 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

DEVELOPMENT WILL START 30 DAYS AFTER THIS PUBLICATION.

CITY GOVERNMENT OF TAGUM
MAY 1, 2005

(PDI - May 13, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD REF. NO. PB-050420-PP0032 / PR NO. TTSD-05-000009528

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE,** wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the item listed below:

Quantity	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING ATI MICROWAVE RADIO PROPRIETARY SPARE PARTS:	TTSD-05-000000 9528	
3 PCS.	ITEM I : RADIO FREQUENCY UNIT (RFU) POWER SUPPLY, Part No. 100-01852		P 846,877.50
3 PCS.	ITEM 2 : RFU RECEIVER SYNTHESIZER Part No. 100-03802		P 1,469,745.00
1 PC.	ITEM 3 : DIGITAL INTERFACE UNIT (DIU) POWER SUPPLY, Part No. 100-04816		P 104,880.00
	TOTAL		P 2,421,502.50

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **May 11, 2005 to June 02, 2005** from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 A.M. of June 03, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **May 18, 2005 at 4:00 P.M.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the corporation.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 13 & 19, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE
Tel. No. 922-3757 / Fax No. 921-2887

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) jointly with the National Power Corporation (NPC), through the MWSS Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Supply and Installation of Accelerometers, for Earthquake Monitoring (Contract No. AEM-1)
Location	: Angat Hydro-Electric Plant, San Lorenzo, Norzagaray, Bulacan
Major Scope of Work	: a. Supply and installation of four (4) units Accelerometers, including the required seismic vaults b. Training of MWSS and NPC personnel, which includes lecture on basic seismology and reservoir-induced seismology, and operation and maintenance of the instrument c. Submission of Factual Reports
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: P 7,749,280.00
Contract Duration	: 160 calendar days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 12 - May 19, 2005 @ BAC Office, MWSS Eng'g. Dept.
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 25, 2005, 2:00 p.m. @ MWSS Sr. DA Conference Rm.
3. Submission/Opening of Bids	June 8, 2005, not later than 2:00 p.m. @ MWSS Eng'g. Dept. (Late submission will not be accepted)
4. Bid Evaluation	June 9 - June 23, 2005
5. Post-qualification	June 9 - June 23, 2005
6. Notice of Award	June 23 - June 30, 2005

Bid documents will be available only to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred (P 1,500.00) Pesos.

The MWSS and NPC assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
Administrator

(PDI – May 6 & 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Office Uniforms of the Supreme Court and the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (BAC for Office Uniforms for the SC/PET) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT: Supply and delivery of Office Uniforms for Officials and Employees of the Supreme Court (SC) and Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		APPROVED BUDGET
Female employees	1,050	Php4,200,000.00
Male employees	1,030	Php4,120,000.00
TOTAL	2,080	Php8,320,000.00

PERIOD OF DELIVERY: November 7-30, 2005

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

The pre-bid conference shall be on **May 20, 2005, Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon at the Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **June 3, 2005, Friday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., at the Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

III. **SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS**

Bids of eligible bidders must be submitted not later than **9:30 a.m. on June 14, 2005, Tuesday and will be opened at 10:00 a.m.** in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, at the **Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Flordeliza S. Cruz, Office of Administrative Services, 4th Floor, Centennial Building (Tel. Nos. 552-9539/552-9542), after payment of a non-reundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

May 6, 2005

(Sgd.) **EDEN T. CANDELARIA**
Chairperson

(PDI - May 6 & 13, 2005)

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The reader is requested to pray for

SERAFIN "Pinoy" JOSE LOPEZ GARCIA

*whose **25th Anniversary** of his passing on to his heavenly home will be celebrated on Saturday, May 14th, 2005.*

Holy Masses will be offered for **Serafin's** eternal repose at:

1. **St. Jerome Emiliani** .... on May 14 at 6:00 am
   Ayala Alabang, Muntinglupa City
2. **Parish of St. James the Great** .... on May 14 at 6:30 pm
   Ayala Alabang, Muntinglupa City
3. **Our Lady of Beautiful Love,** .... on May 14 at 6:00 pm
   Merville Church, Parañaque City
4. **Kamias Holy Family Church** .... on May 14 at 6:00 am
   Quezon City

Serafin's family is grateful for your prayerful remembrance.

Serafin is survived by his widow **Amy Eleazar**; their daughter **Maria Teresa** and her children - **John Henry** and **Elizabeth Bishop**; their son **Serafin Jose**, his wife **Cheryl**, and their children - **Christina, Serafin Joseph IV** and **Nicholas**; their son **Agustin Jose**, his wife **Veronica**, and their children - **Victoria** and **Agustin Joseph**; their daughter **Ana Isel**; and their son **Martin Jose**, his wife **Kathleen** and their daughter **Bethany**; his sister-in-law **Milagros Bona Garcia** (Brother **Manuel Garcia, Jr.** - deceased); his sisters **Pilar** and **Pacita** and their spouses **Ricardo Villanueva** and **Antonio Jacinto** respectively; and his nieces **Maria Paz Villanueva** and **Patricia Jacinto-Rees**.

> "In peace I shall both lie down and sleep for You alone Lord make me secure."
> (Psalm 4:9)

Gaudencia Del Rosario - Tecson

Mother of **Elizabeth & Ping Octaviano, Ruby & Louie Sioson, Gwen R. Tecson, Annabelle & Tony Abaya**

Grandmother of **Michael, Jenny & Noel Laguio, Happy, Gabby, Marco, Victor, Margaux** and **Anton.**

reached the end of her earthly journey at the full age of 91 and went back to the Father on May 11, 2005.

She knew how to live life purposefully and love unconditionally. We know that she continues to cheer us and will be waiting for us at the finish-line of our own journey.

She is at Funeraria Paz, Mabini Room of the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will follow after Holy Mass on Pentecost Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on May 15, 2005.

Rosa Montoya Montano

(May 2, 1933-May 11, 2005)

*Very peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, **Armando Sr.** at the age of 72.*

Her bereaved children and grandchildren:

Armando Jr. and Mila
  Andrew Michael
  Mark Adrian
Robert and Eloisa
  John Emerson
  Charles Paul
  Armi Rose
Mandie and Yolly
  Christian Marlowe
Irwin and Hydee
  Stefanie Anne
  Irving
Nerissa and William
  Winona Averil
Ronald and Jannett
  Ralph Johann
Arlisse and Joan
  Jan Ayette
  Jan Aldous

Aunts, Severina, Enriqueta and Sr. Salve ICM, Brother, Lamberto, Sisters, Sr. Tita ICM and Editha, sisters and brothers-in-law and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Vedar, 102 E. Gonzales Street, Silang, Cavite.

Interment will be on May 15, 2005, Sunday, after the 1:00 PM mass at Nuestra Señora de Candelaria Parish in Silang, Cavite.

TERESITA ABANGAN MANUEL

February 12, 1932 - May 15, 2004

1st Death Anniversary

In commemorating the 1st Death Anniversary of MS. TERESITA ABANGAN MANUEL who died on May 15, 2004 in Washington D.C., USA, memorial masses will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2005 at the Our Lady of Good Voyage in Antipolo, Holy Trinity Parish in Calabash Rd., Sampaloc, Manila, St. Martin de Porres Parish in United 1 Parañaque and at the Manila Memorial Park (10:00 a.m.) in Sucat Road, Parañaque where her remains lie in state.

She is remembered by family and friends as a devout Catholic and is instrumental in the building of the Antipolo Marian Shrine at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. as the representative of the Filipino Catholics.

The surviving family of Teresing or Tessing as she is fondly called requests her other relatives and friends to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

> *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* **Matthew 11:28**

CLASSIFIEDS

NREA Regional Confab in Cebu City, May 26-28

REAL estate practitioners from Visayas and Mindanao will converge at Casino Español in Cebu City on May 26 – 28 for the Visayas – Mindanao Conference & Exhibits of the National Real Estate Association (NREA), the One-Stop Trade Organization of the industry, it was learned from organizationman Jose V. Manalad, NREA founder and national president.

Architect Nestor S. Mangio, NREA national chairman, said that the conference, focused on the theme, "Addressing the Realities of the New Filipino Community for a More Sustainable Growth in the 21st Century," is a regional version of NREA's National Convention and Exhibits held in Mandaluyong City on Sept. 22 – 24 last year.

For his part, Realtor Abundio C. Gultiano, Jr., NREA Cebu chapter president and conference organizer, added that the regional forum where some 500 participants are expected, will provide the participants the latest information and technology updates in property development to further enhance their trade capabilities.

"The government housing counterparts have also expressed full support to the conference which is expected to mobilize resources in the regional areas to boost the delivery of decent and affordable housing, particularly for the homeless low-income workers," Architect Mangio said.

Gultiano also cited that the achievement of synergy in the housing efforts of both government and private sector housing practitioners is one of the cornerstones of the National Shelter Program under the leadership of Vice President Noli L. "Kabayan" de Castro, concurrent chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

The conference also serves as an appropriate venue in forgoing and sustaining the joint private and government – sector participation in addressing the country's housing needs; Gultiano emphasized.

For particulars, interested parties may contact the NREA Secretariat at tells. 912-3492 and 913-4463.

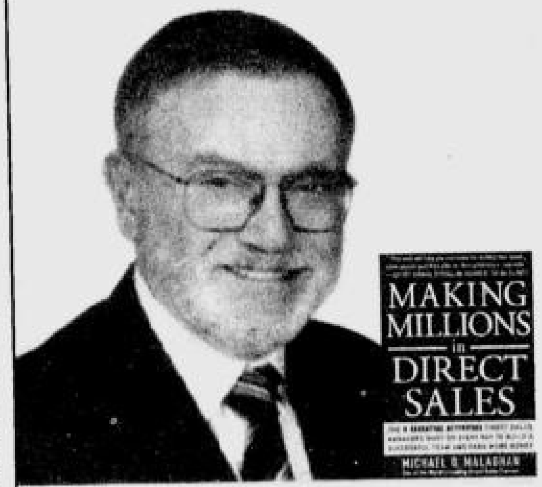
Emilia J. Eustaquio's 85 Birthday at the Shangri-la Hotel

EMILIA Eustaquio celebrated her 85th Birthday with her 10 children last December 27, 2004 at the Quezon Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. Her 8 children who are all residing abroad came all the way from the USA to attend the celebration. They are: Dr. Erlinda Gray, Celso Eustaquio, Joey Eustaquio, Celerina Eustaquio, Neneng Suizo, Susan Endongo, Amado Eustaquio Jr., and Lanie Teopaco. Nancy de Leon and Aida Salazar are the only remaining daughters residing in the Philippines. Emilia herself is residing in California.

A thanksgiving mass was officiated by Fr. Armand Tangi. This was followed by a grand program emceed by Marissa Sanchez. Pelita Corales sang the favorite songs of the celebrant and Dolphy, relatives and friends of the family joined in the celebration.

EMILIA J. Eustaquio, the celebrant

THE CELEBRANT with children and in-laws and guests Dolphy and Pilita Corales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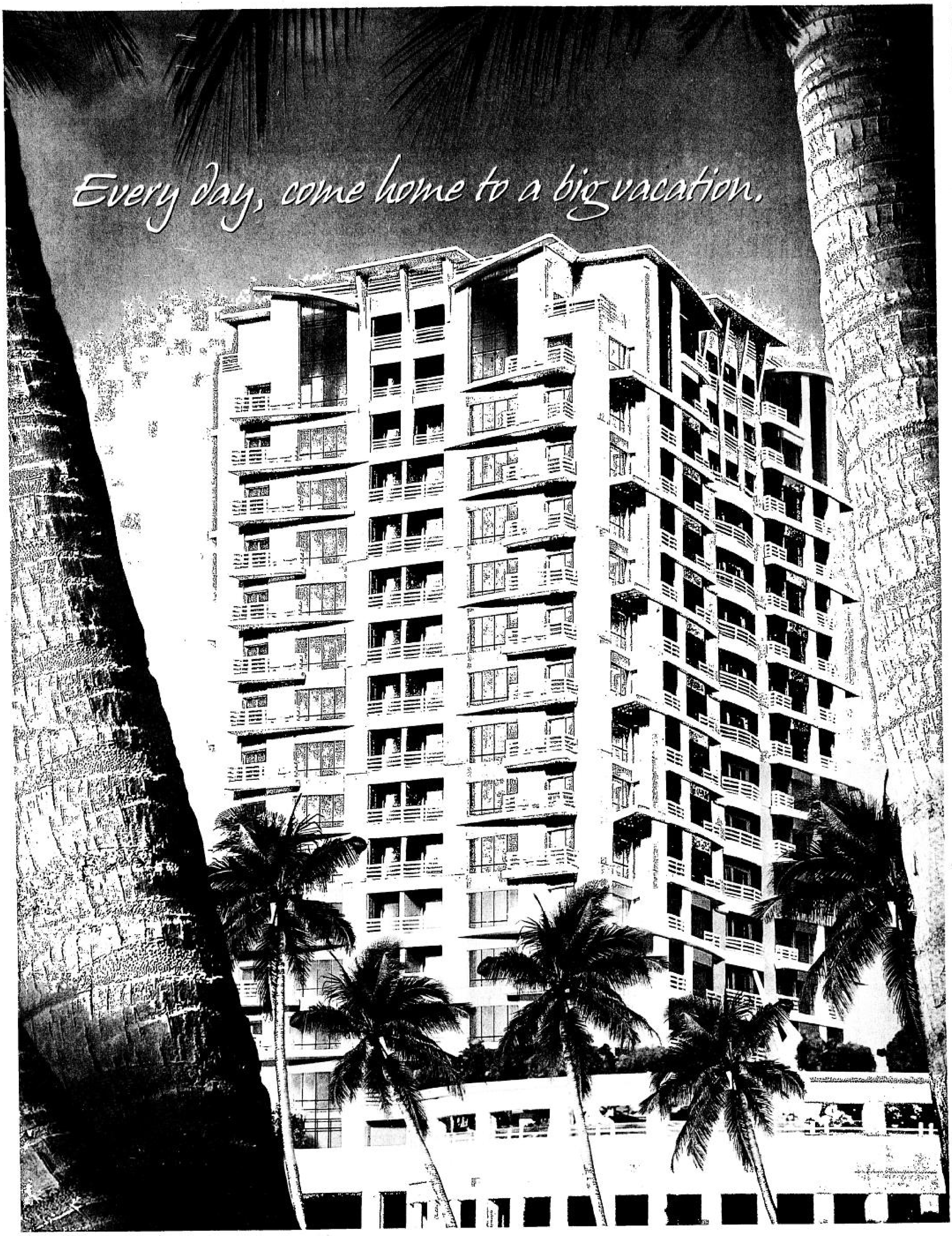
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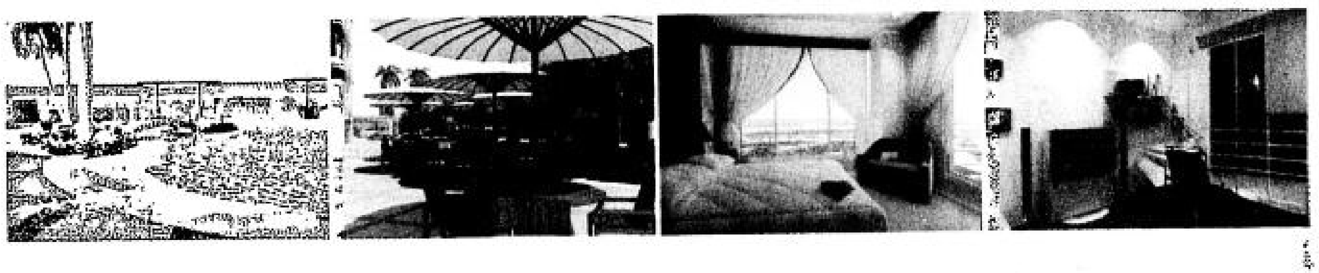

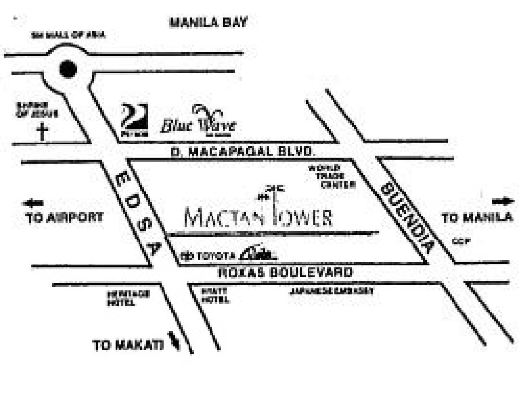
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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Simple investments not enough for Pinoy families

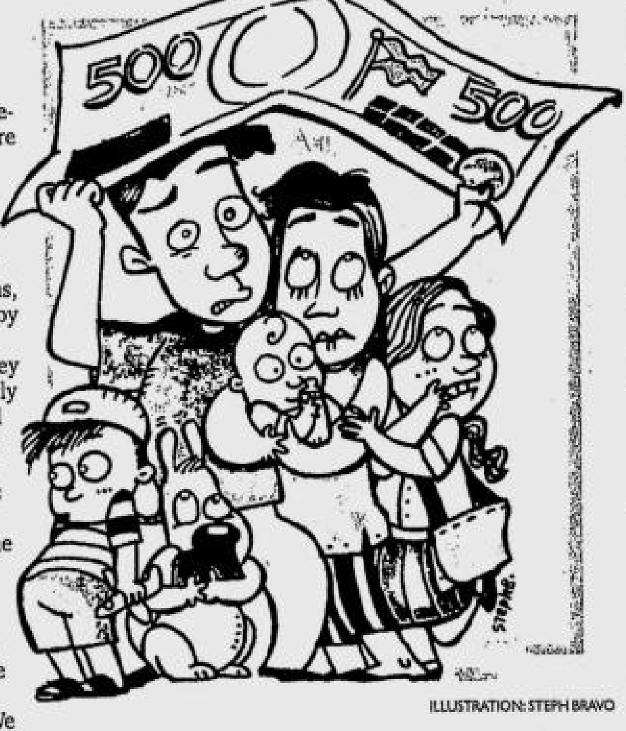


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FAMILIES today are more careful about their money and are less likely to take out a loan.

This was one of the main findings of a study on the dreams, aspirations and attitudes of married couples toward money and loans, which was commissioned by BPI Family Savings Bank.

Asked about how they looked at life today, newly married couples aged 35 and below generally said that they needed to keep their life simple because of life's uncertainties.

Couples married for some time, on the other hand, said that they have seen better days, financially speaking. Life was quite different, as recently as five years ago.

"We had a good life. We could buy branded clothes. We could go to Hong Kong and Bangkok. Now, we just stay here," said one couple, and the attitude was typical among many couples included in the survey.

Married couples, however, especially those just starting out, were driven to pursue their dreams, but in a responsible and practical way.

Their core belief when it comes to money is to live within their means, and fulfill dreams—such as buying a car and house—one at a time.

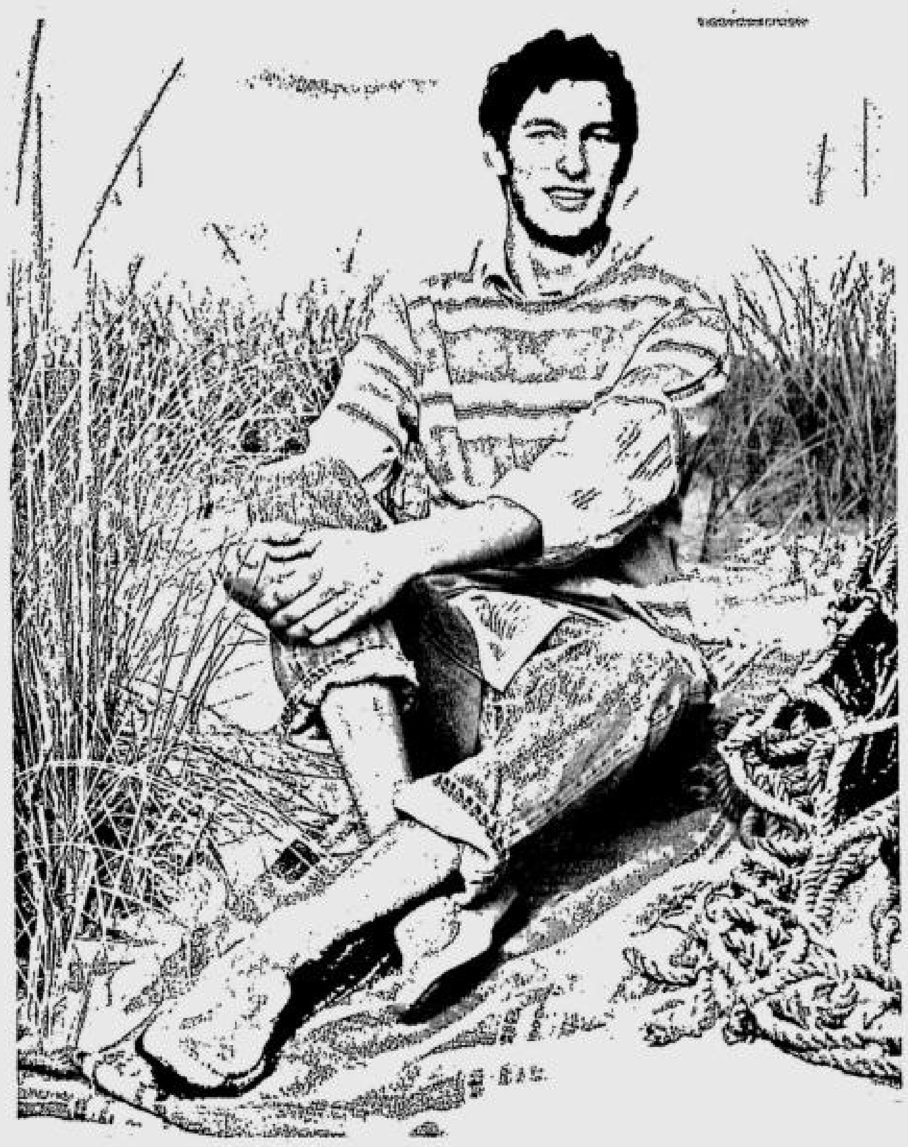
These couples are looking for "a practical, realistic way to live in the present while working for one's dreams."

Being practical for many means setting aside funds, which they put into simple investments such as independent or joint savings accounts, time deposits, educational plans, life insurance policies and small businesses, such as catering or multi-level marketing.

But at the same time, they know that simple investments will not do.

The study said couples knew they should:

SIMPLE/B2-2



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THREE 100,000 WARRANTY

Preserving family wealth

By Joel L. Tan-Torres and Eleanor M. Montenegro
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

IT IS often said that there are two things inevitable in life: death and taxes. The more bitter reality, however, is that death and taxes can and do coincide—one as the result of the other—and when they do, it can mean the dissipation of hard-earned family assets. A sound estate or family wealth plan can mitigate the tax burden imposed by the simultaneous occurrence of these two eventualities and should, therefore, be seriously considered by anyone who wishes to ensure that a substantial portion of family assets are enjoyed by the heirs and not used up to pay off tax liabilities.

Exemptions from estate tax

Contrary to common belief, not all assets or transfers upon death are subject to the estate tax. The law does provide for exemptions or exceptions from this tax. Therefore, any estate or family wealth planning endeavor should begin with a thorough consideration of whether these exclusions can be availed of.

Proceeds of life insurance may be excluded from the gross estate

Proceeds of life insurance taken out by the deceased family member on his or her own life, is generally included in the gross estate that is subject to the estate tax. However, when it is expressly stipulated that the designation of the beneficiary of such insurance is irrevocable, the law removes the life insurance proceeds from the gross estate and effectively shields the same from the estate tax.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) previously ruled that the proceeds of a life insurance policy with a "Special Irrevocable Beneficiary" designation do not form part of the gross estate of a deceased, subject to estate tax. The right to the proceeds of the life insurance in said case immediately vests on the beneficiary upon the death of the insured. Therefore, said proceeds no longer form part of the gross estate of the deceased-insured. (BIR Ruling No. 310-87, dated Oct. 7, 1987) Thus, by the simple act of making the designation of the beneficiary under a policy of life insurance irrevocable, the insured can ensure that the beneficiary will enjoy in full the proceeds of such insurance, free from the estate tax.

Transmissions, acquisitions

Under the law, there are certain acquisitions and transmissions that are exempt from the estate tax. These are:

1. The merger of usufruct in the owner of the naked title;
2. The transmission or delivery of the inheritance or legacy by the fiduciary heir or legatee to the fideicommissary;
3. The transmission from the first heir, legatee or donee in favor of another beneficiary, in accordance with the desire of the predecessor; and
4. All bequests, devises, legacies or transfers to social, welfare, cultural and charitable institutions, no part of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any individual.

These exemptions provide the strategies for effective estate or family wealth planning. To take advantage, for example, of the second item of exemption mentioned above, a person may, by will or other formal written instrument, provide for a fideicommissary or substitute heir. Where a fideicommissary is instituted, the subsequent transfer of assets from the first heir—called the fiduciary heir—to the second heir or fideicommissary becomes exempt from estate tax. This can be an effective way to minimize taxes as property is passed on to the next generation, as well as to ensure that property remains within the family.

Under a fideicommissary substitution, the fiduciary or first heir (e.g. a son) is entrusted with the obligation to preserve and to transmit to a second heir (e.g. a grandchild) the whole or part of the inheritance. Under the law, the fideicommissary should not go beyond one degree from the first heir. It is also required that the first heir and the second heir are living at the time of death of the person who made the fideicommissary substitution.

To illustrate:

Mr. X has a son, Y, and a grandson Z. Mr. X owns a parcel of land. Mr. X can specify in his will that he is instituting a fideicommissary or substitute heir with respect to the parcel of land. Mr. X can state in his will that his son Y will inherit the parcel of land as a fiduciary or first heir, and is obligated to:

(1) preserve the property and (2) upon Y's death, to pass on the property to the grandson, Z.

As a consequence of the fideicommissary substitution, the transfer of inheritance from the deceased (Mr. X) to the first heir (Y) is subject to the estate tax, but the transfer from the first heir (Y) to the second heir (Z), will be exempt from the estate tax. In the long run, a fideicommissary provision under a will can be an effective tool to mitigate the burden of estate tax on the family.

However, it must be noted that under the law, a fideicommissary substitution cannot burden the legitime. The legitime is that portion of the estate which is reserved by law for the compulsory heirs. Compulsory heirs succeed to the estate whether the deceased likes it or not. They cannot be deprived of their participation in the inheritance except by disinheritance properly effected following the requirements of the law.

Therefore, there are opinions stating that a fideicommissary substitution can only be made with respect to the "free portion" of the estate of a deceased person. Under the law, the legitime of legitimate children consists of one-half (1/2) of the estate of the deceased parent. The legitime of the surviving spouse is equal to the share of one child. The rest of the estate is the "free portion," which a person may dispose of freely by will.

Time to plan is now

The strategies discussed above are only two of the various ways by which the estate tax can be minimized. However, the more crucial step is to start the process of evaluating which way will work for the family. In planning your estate, it may be later than you think, but it is never too late to start. The big hurdle is getting started—getting something down on paper. A well-devised plan will follow these five steps:

1. Decide on objectives.
2. Keep your plan flexible.
3. Provide for liquidity.
4. Aim to minimize taxes.
5. Schedule periodic reviews of your plan.

Conclusion

There are other avenues, aside from those mentioned above, to effectively shield family wealth from taxation. A good estate or family wealth plan will not merely rely on a single technique, but will take advantage of the benefits of the combined effect of several techniques. If the family is prepared, death and taxes may be inevitable, but they will not be burdensome. The inevitable will merely be points of transition.

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MARCH 2005

ROGER Buhay

Marketing professor blends theoretical with the practical

ROGER Buhay has been around the marketing industry and marketing education for so long that he has seen them bloom into the dynamic and interesting fields that they are now.

But it's not as if Buhay has just been going with the flow and watching from the sidelines. For more than four decades now, Buhay has been an active and passionate player in the Philippine marketing arena—first as a media man, then as an advertising executive and for most part of his life, as a marketing educator.

He has left an indelible mark in the marketing education histories of institutions like the Ateneo de Manila University where he taught courses on marketing strategy; De La Salle University as faculty and later chairman of the marketing management department; Assumption College, where he was chair of the communication department; and the University of Santo Tomas, where he designed the curriculum for marketing management in the graduate studies and where he is now connected as consultant.

It is no wonder then that Buhay was accorded the very first Member Emeritus Award by the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) in recognition of his valuable contribution to the field of marketing education.

Given by present AME president Josiah Go and project chair Elizabeth Amoranto of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, the award gives honor to Buhay both as the first charter president of AME and as an important link between marketing practitioners and marketing educators, of which he is both. AME, which is composed of marketing teachers from various universities nationwide, envisions to give the same recognition to other deserving members in the future.

Marketing education evolves

"When the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) organized AME in 1989, it was proof that they realize that it was time that marketing practitioners affiliate with those in the academe. This is because for the field to grow, the concepts, theories and practical experience of the practitioners must blend well and consistently with the research and the academic discipline of the educators," Buhay, who is in his 70s, said. He was also a recipient of the Agora Award for Marketing Education in 1992.

In the olden days, Buhay recalls, only the University of the East (UE) had a marketing department.

"In the '60s, there was no awareness that marketing should be a broader tool to promote a product or a service. It was not widely believed, like it is now, that marketing was 'the' umbrella discipline that includes advertising, promotions, public relations, etc. The breakthroughs and the milestones in marketing were largely brought in by practitioners at that time."

Buhay was trained in Journalism at UST and holds a master of arts degree from the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma and a master of science degree from the Columbia College of Arts in Chicago, Illinois. He also had professional studies in Northwestern University in Illinois and the Oklahoma State University. His exposure abroad did not go unused. Buhay brought with him a world view far different from what was existing in local marketing education at that time.

"When I was in the University of Tulsa in the '50s, we hardly met in the classroom. The class would be at a restaurant or a bar, under a tree or at a park, by the beach discussing concepts in relation to the things we see or experience around," Buhay recalls.

He was thus so excited to bring in the same technique when he started to teach here in the country.

"I believe there are more things to learn outside the classroom, and students retain the most important of them because they relate them with their experience. Sadly, when I first used the same style in the '60s, I got a written notice from the administrators of the university I was teaching at. It was unthinkable at that time here in the Philippines to bring out your students," Buhay narrates.

Today, such practice which was shunned by the conservatives is now the norm. Thanks to broadminded educators like Buhay who see the beauty in blending the practical with the theoretical.

"Students today are also more exposed to the media. They know what is going on out there and you can't keep them inside the classrooms. Teaching in this day and age, students expect me to bring them to the site—to advertising offices, to meet with key people and allow them to talk to the movers and shakers in the industry, a lot of film showing. As the marketing industry grows, so

MARKETING/ B2-3

All-woman production firm perks up TV commercials

By Jack Sotto
Contributor

LIZANNE Alcazaren, Sockie Fernandez and Annette Eufemio of Brew.

"THREE'S a crowd," the second part of a famous saying, doesn't apply to Brew, a relatively new entry in the field of TV commercial production. The three ladies who form the core of this all-female outfit prove that the number can make for good company. It is the first and only one of its kind.

The threesome is composed of seasoned, closely knit pros: Sockie Fernandez, Lizanne Alcazaren, and Annette Eufemio. Sockie, a TV commercial director, is Brew's head of creative. Lizanne is on top of marketing while Annette handles operations.

The company's logo is a coffee cup with a sexy lipstick mark on its rim. The women chose the name Brew as a derivative of "bruja," which they jokingly say describes them.

But there is nothing witch-like or kooky about the three. Lizanne ventures that some of their clients even call them "Mommy," referring to their maternal warmth and caring that add an extra dimension to their service. All three also happen to be working mothers.

Pitted against the more established and bigger production houses, Lizanne points out that they work harder to make a difference. Their company's lean, compact size also ensures greater efficiency and personal attention to their clients' needs.

The combined experiences of Sockie, Lizanne and Annette are impressive. Sockie began as an agency producer for J. Walter Thompson and segued in the same capacity in PAC and McCann Erickson. She moved to the production side, with stints at TVC (now known as Unitel), Optima and Procter & Gamble, where she worked as regional producer on Whisper for Procter & Gamble. She returned to Unitel as one of its in-house TV commercial directors. Her short film "Liyab," a disturbing work about homosexual love and euthanasia, won first prize in the 2003 Cinemanila Film Festival.

Lizanne's start was more extraordinary. She was the lead singer in a rock band. She joined the advertising world as an account executive in O&M. She later switched to the production side as executive producer for Filmex, Workstation and Industria. She is married to Mike Alcazaren, a well-regarded TV commercial director.

Annette's first job was that of a preschool teacher. But advertising beckoned. She joined Ace Saatchi & Saatchi as a producer. Her forte is beauty care commercials, especially shampoo.

"I wanted to grow up," Sockie says." I felt that it was time for me to try my hand at being an entrepreneur, and to push myself further." It's a sentiment that her two partners share with her.

In their year and a half of operations, Brew has produced TV commercials for such brands as Del Monte Pineapple Juice, ProKids Diapers, Neutrogena Soap, JVC Electronics, Commando Lighters, Lotus Ballpens and PLDT. It counts McCann Erickson, O&M, Campaigns & Grey, Brand Idea, FCB and DDB among its growing roster of ad agency clients.

Being women, Sockie, Lizanne and Annette have a soft spot for women's causes and children's rights. They are wont to offer their services pro bono to come up with high-impact commercials made on shoestring budgets.

Recently, Sockie directed a commercial for UN Population Fund under the aegis of Campaigns & Grey. In the commercial,

ALL-WOMAN/ B2-3

Simple investments not enough for Pinoy families

From page B2-1

have more than one business, invest in a piece of property and search for new opportunities.

Taking out a loan is not an option for most of the couples included in the study. They are afraid of going into debt.

They are afraid of: risking money, ruining the marriage, failing to meet the obligations and tarnishing their reputation.

"If things go wrong, it won't speak well of you as a person," said one of those studied.

But the study said couples were willing to get a loan if banks gave them low interest rates, flexible terms and good service. The banks must also be perceived as stable amid these trying times.

BPI Family Bank, the country's biggest consumer lending bank, took these findings into consideration when it launched its "Get Started On Tomorrow" campaign yesterday to get more Filipinos to take out loans by offering lower rates and longer repayment periods.

By offering affordable loan packages, BPI Family president Alfonso Salcedo Jr. hopes that Filipinos will become more confident about taking out a loan to buy that car or dream house.

BPI Family is concentrating its campaign on three core products: auto loans, housing loans and a high-yielding deposit product.

Salcedo says the campaign is targeted toward families that are financially responsible and willing to work for their dreams.

SALCEDO

By training the staff to be more customer friendly and able to explain the facets of taking out a loan, Salcedo is confident that the fear of taking out a loan would subside.

At the end of the day, Salcedo says committing to a loan is all about having confidence in one's ability and the prospects of the Philippines.

"Hope is becoming scarce, and as the country's biggest savings bank, we thought that we ought to spread the culture of optimism and tell people that they can get started on a brighter tomorrow," he says.

First cryogenic fruit freezing plant in RP launched

CONSOLIDATED Industrial Gases Inc. (CIGI), the country's leading industrial gases supplier in the Philippines, launched a first in the food industry—the fruit cryogenic plant. Situated and operated by Marsman Drysdale Foods Corp. (MDFC), the facility is used by MDFC in freezing diced mangoes which it exports to the US and Japan.

Installed and commissioned in a record eight weeks, the facility produces frozen diced mangoes at a rate of 300 kilos per hour. The mangoes, which go through a 5-stage washing and sterilization process, are frozen using liquid nitrogen at a temperature of -18 degress Celcius and chilled in about 10-15 minutes, compared to mechanical freezing that takes 4-6 hours.

MDFC chief operating officer Manny Sinnung said the fruit freezing technology allows their company to break in new grounds in the fruit processing industry. Marsman Drysdale owns the only facility with a tunnel freezer using liquid nitrogen. "Our move to use CIGI's cryo freezing technology is our continuing commitment to pioneer projects that we hope to benefit the food processing industry, and later on the country as well," Sinnung added.

Marketing ...

From page B2-2

does the horizon of marketing students who will eventually be the leaders in the industry," he adds.

What AME and Buhay are doing, therefore, is not only training the future leaders in marketing or advertising but these educators are already giving the students a huge headstart early in the game.

"That is why we at AME have committed, ever since we were formed, not only to help the students but to help ourselves, train our fellow teachers and always make sure that we are ahead."

For one, through the Merit (Marketing Educators Resource Industry Training) program, AME is actively equipping its members with the skills and tools needed in teaching marketing practices that meet the industry requirements. AME has held a teacher's training on strategic marketing, category management, STP for consumer market and the role of PE in advocacy and lobbying which were facilitated by highly respected practitioners.

All woman ...

From page B2-2

which won an Ad of the Month nod from the Creative Guild of the Philippines, two men essay the roles of abused spouses. Both are hugely pregnant and wear dusters. Saddled with children they can hardly care for, they complain about how their wives subjugate and maltreat them. This role reversal is an ingenious way of underscoring a serious problem in the country.

Sockie, Lizanne and Annette are gung-ho on making their mark in a field traditionally dominated by men. But then, so was advertising. Today, many ad agencies are headed by women, a role reversal of sorts.

Their modest office in Legazpi Village has a lot of feminine touches. It has a comfy, homey feel to it. Yet the three women are percolating with the kind of creative energy and optimism that can be positive and infectious.

Brew, anyone?

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With THAI's new business class, Royal Silk Class, and a revolution in comfort with new Airbus A340-500 carriers, you can fly non-stop from Bangkok to New York in record time: 17 hours. This service offers more spacious cabins with increased personal space, greater comfort with "Lie-flat" 170-degree seat, and better entertainment than ever before.

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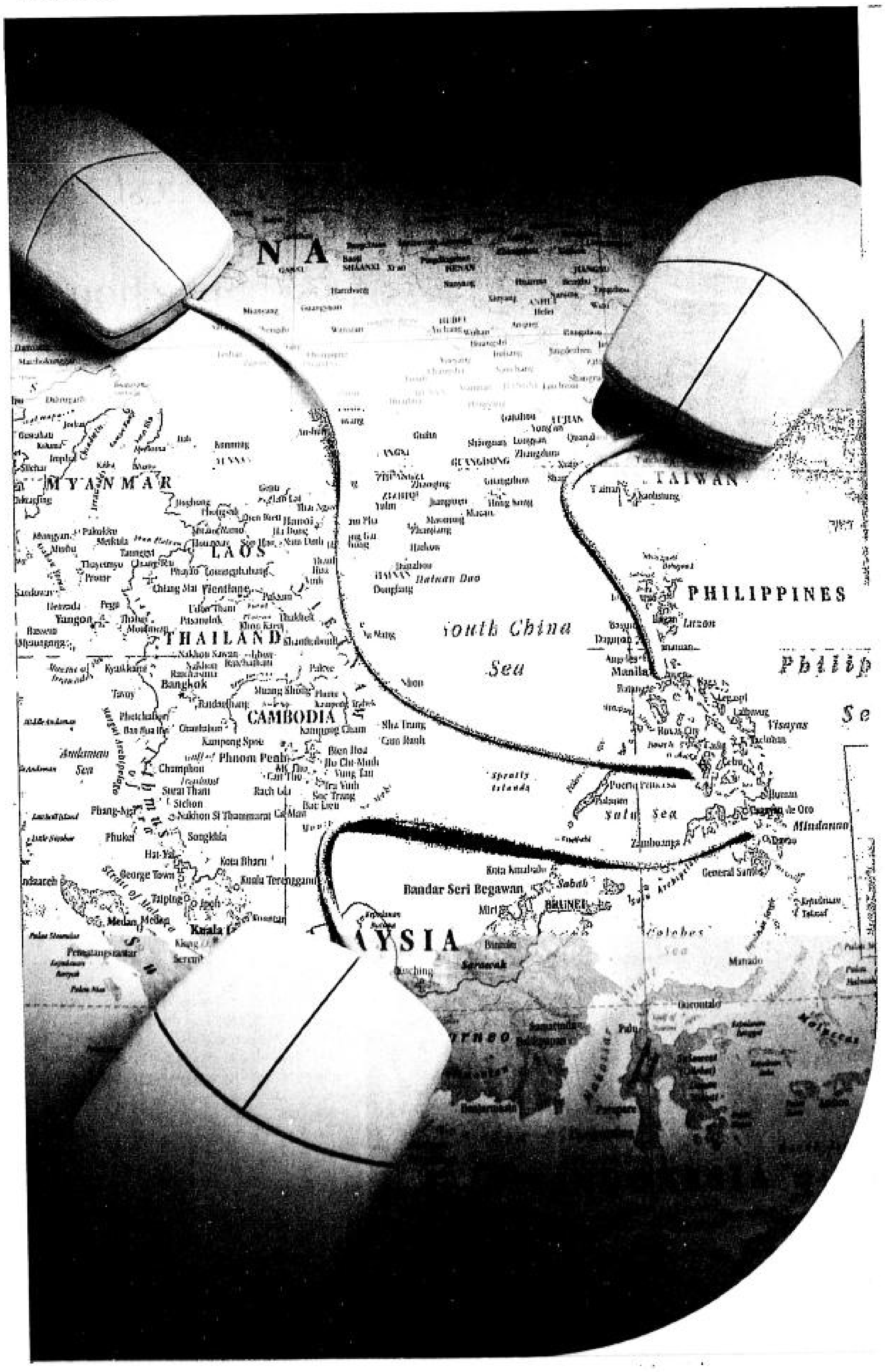

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Five ways to develop meaningful value proposition

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

ONE of the most important tasks a marketer faces, whether launching a new product or service or re-energizing a mature brand, is to find a value proposition that matters most to prospective customers.

Herein lie a number of challenges: one, the value proposition, also known as the brand's positioning, must be differentiated from existing players in the market; two, the positioning must be relevant to the targeted market while ideally serving a latent need which current players originally failed to address; three, the value proposition should meet the needs of quite a huge, untapped market making it profitable for the firm to introduce the differentiating benefit; fourth, a superior differentiation cannot be immediately copied even by chronic me-too brands thus, allowing the innovative brand to recover much of its investment before others join the fray; and finally, buyers must be willing to pay for the differentiation while perceiving the product or service as affordable.

While the preceding defines the criteria behind successful competitive differentiation, nonetheless, the task remains daunting, often leaving many marketers confused.

Following are some marketing strategies aimed at exploring and identifying meaningful value proposition:

Dialectic way. This means moving along the opposite and un-traveled path. Most marketers prefer the comfort of incremental innovation i.e., new flavors, new scents, new colors, etc. while promising the same benefit everybody does in a category. Not so, the innovator, who willingly adopts disruptive innovation in a desire to change consumer and market dynamics. An example is the recently introduced OraCare mouth rinse, a no-sting, and non-alcohol based mouthwash with stabilized chlorine dioxide that claims to get rid of odor-causing bacteria in hard to reach places in the mouth. Present users of mouthwash brands associate a brand's stinging sensation with product efficacy. Yet, there is an un-served segment of the market of lapsed or non-users of mouthwash preferring to compromise oral hygiene simply because they do not like the stinging sensation of most mouthwashes. OraCare mouth rinse addresses this latent need with its breakthrough mouthwash that freshens breath without the stinging sensation.

Intuitive way. This requires keen understanding of the target market and sensitivity to their needs. Key is to explore ideas behind the brand and validate it through consumer market research. Star Margarine expanded its usage from a sandwich filling to a rice mix while validating the concept through ethnographic research. In the process, the brand business grew beyond the bread market.

The Maslow way. Abraham Maslow's needs hierarchy provides a model for differentiating multiple brands belonging to the same company allowing said brands to co-exist. For example, Procter & Gamble Inc. has multiple toilet soap brands including Ivory Soap for mild, basic cleansing (physiological need); Safeguard (safety need) provides protection against germs; Zest for family use (social need); Camay for the self-assured woman (esteem need); and Oil of Olay for the mature woman who thinks beyond herself (self-actualization). Likewise, the needs hierarchy model applies to single brands.

Recently, McDonalds in support of public health advocacy has shifted to a safety platform when it launched its new global marketing campaign that promotes "eating right and staying active." Along with its international television campaign featuring tennis athletes Venus and Serena Williams and snow boarding champ Crispin Lipscomb, the brand's ambassador of goodwill, Ronald McDonald also embarks on a lifestyle mission. Dressed in a yellow and red colored workout gear, Ronald McDonald exhorts kids to pay attention to what they eat and maintain an active lifestyle.

The analogic way. Another way of exploring differentiation is to look at other best practices and dominant brands in other categories and use these models, when relevant, as a benchmark for one's own category and brand. For example, Disney's brand of thematic experience and entertainment has become the model for quite a number of casual dining restaurants and even coffee shops. Professional baristas don't just mechanically stir coffee; there is rhythm, movement and even subtle entertainment in their coffee preparation.

Intel realized the opportunity gain of branding its microprocessors, looking outside of the industry. Intel meticulously studied ingredient branding using as benchmarks other ingredient brands like Teflon, Dolby stereo and Nutrasweet.

Defining the brand's competitive differentiation boils down to the marketer's choice. Knowing one's prospective market very well and being sensitive to their needs helps the marketer pick the right strategic differentiation.

The writer is a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business with e-mail address at kdeasis@skyinet.net.

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Deutsche Bank now largest foreign exchange house

DEUTSCHE Bank has become the largest foreign exchange trading bank in Asia, and globally, according to a major global market share survey undertaken by the respected Euromoney magazine.

The Euromoney's 2005 survey gathered information from nearly 4,500 wholesale foreign exchange clients globally, including corporate treasurers and fund managers.

According to the results, Deutsche Bank is the pre-eminent foreign exchange trading house in Asia with 17.04 percent market share. It is well ahead of its local competitors. The Euromoney poll reported Citigroup with an Asian market share of 12.58 percent, while UBS and HSBC had 11.22 percent and 10.05 percent respectively.

Deutsche Bank's overall global foreign exchange market share now stands at 16.72 percent, reportedly four per cent ahead of UBS on 12.47 percent and more than double that of Citigroup, which Euromoney said is 7.5 percent.

According to Singapore-based Clifford Cheah, Head of Foreign Exchange Asia, Deutsche Bank's strong market share in Asia is a reflection of the commitment it makes to individual countries throughout the region.

"Deutsche Bank is one of the few global players which has committed people and technology to each local market in Asia and is focused on development of strong market liquidity. With FX trading desks in 13 countries in Asia, the Euromoney award recognizes the contribution Deutsche Bank makes to foreign exchange in the region."

Enrico Cruz, Chief Country Officer for the Philippines, said: "Deutsche Bank's FX sales and trading desk delivers a wide range of innovative foreign exchange services to local clients in the Philippines from research through to trade execution with experts based in country. We aim to bring innovation to clients and work closely with regulators, industry bodies and clients to develop and promote new foreign exchange product and market development."

In the 2005 Euromoney survey, Deutsche Bank ranked in the top four for all Asian currencies surveyed in the "best for currencies award section," including: Yen (all cross currencies), the Chinese Yuan, the HK dollar, the Singapore Dollar, the Australian Dollar, the Thai Baht, the Korean Won, the New Taiwan Dollar, the Indonesian Rupiah, the Philippine Peso and the Indian Rupee. Deutsche Bank also received accolades as the leading e-trading proprietary platform, and for the Best Foreign Exchange research house in economic fundamentals.

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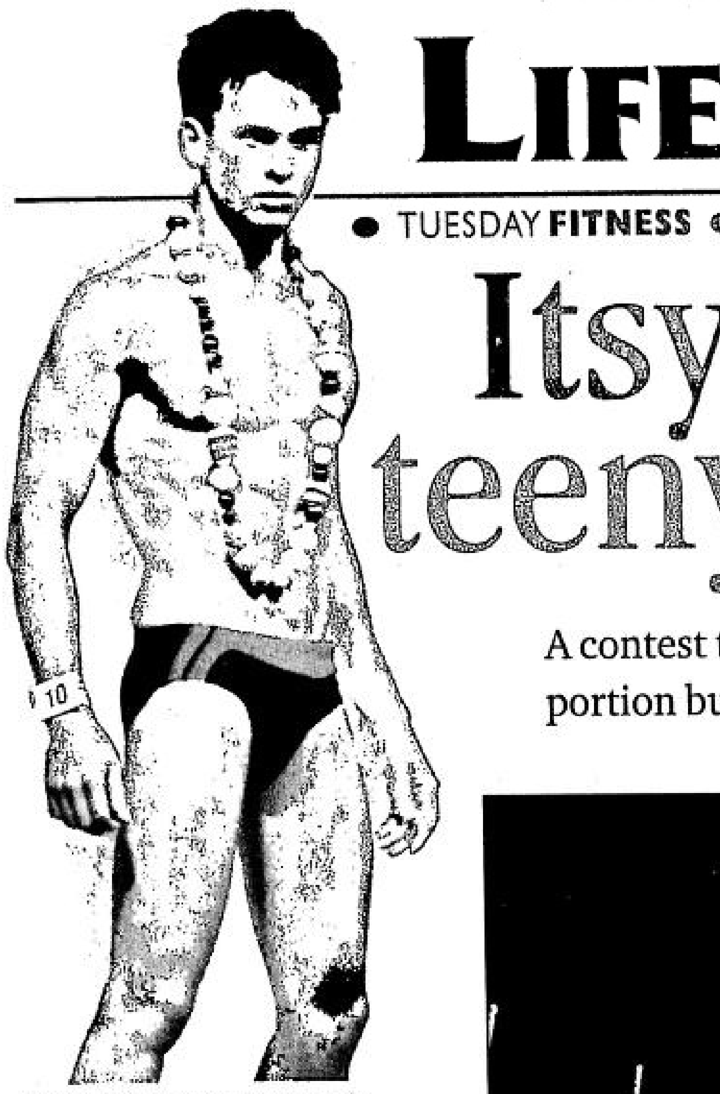
DUNKIN' DONUTS Slabsters



Itsy-bitsy-teeny-weeney

A contest that comes full with a Q&A portion but skimps on the clothes

BANDEAU babe. Kathleen Deen

BELLY-BUTTON belle. Ericka Fontanilla

VETERAN hard body Martin Jickain

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IN A CROWDED field of good-looking guys with rippling abs and gorgeous girls with ample chests, the top male and female winners in the recent Mossimo Bikini Summit at the Araneta Coliseum weren't exactly more seasoned or "gifted" than most of the other contestants.

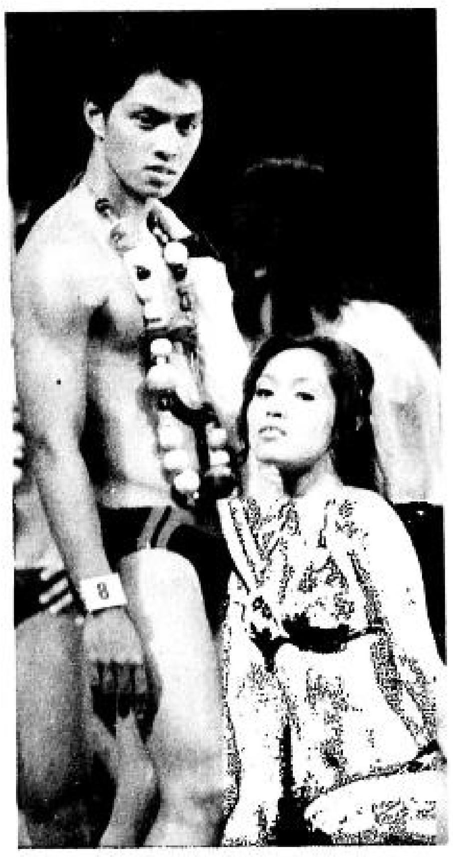
After a three-hour show that exposed 32 young hard bodies (16 males and 16 females) in various stages of undress—and lack of depth—half-Filipino, half-Norwegian Einar Ingerbrigsten and dusky Denise Montecillo ran away with the plum prizes.

To be fair to the contestants, many of whom came from reputable schools, the Q&A portion seemed unnecessary since none of them seem to harbor any illusions of entering Harvard to become astrophysicists or microbiologists someday. It was a modeling contest, for Pete's sake, not an IQ tilt.

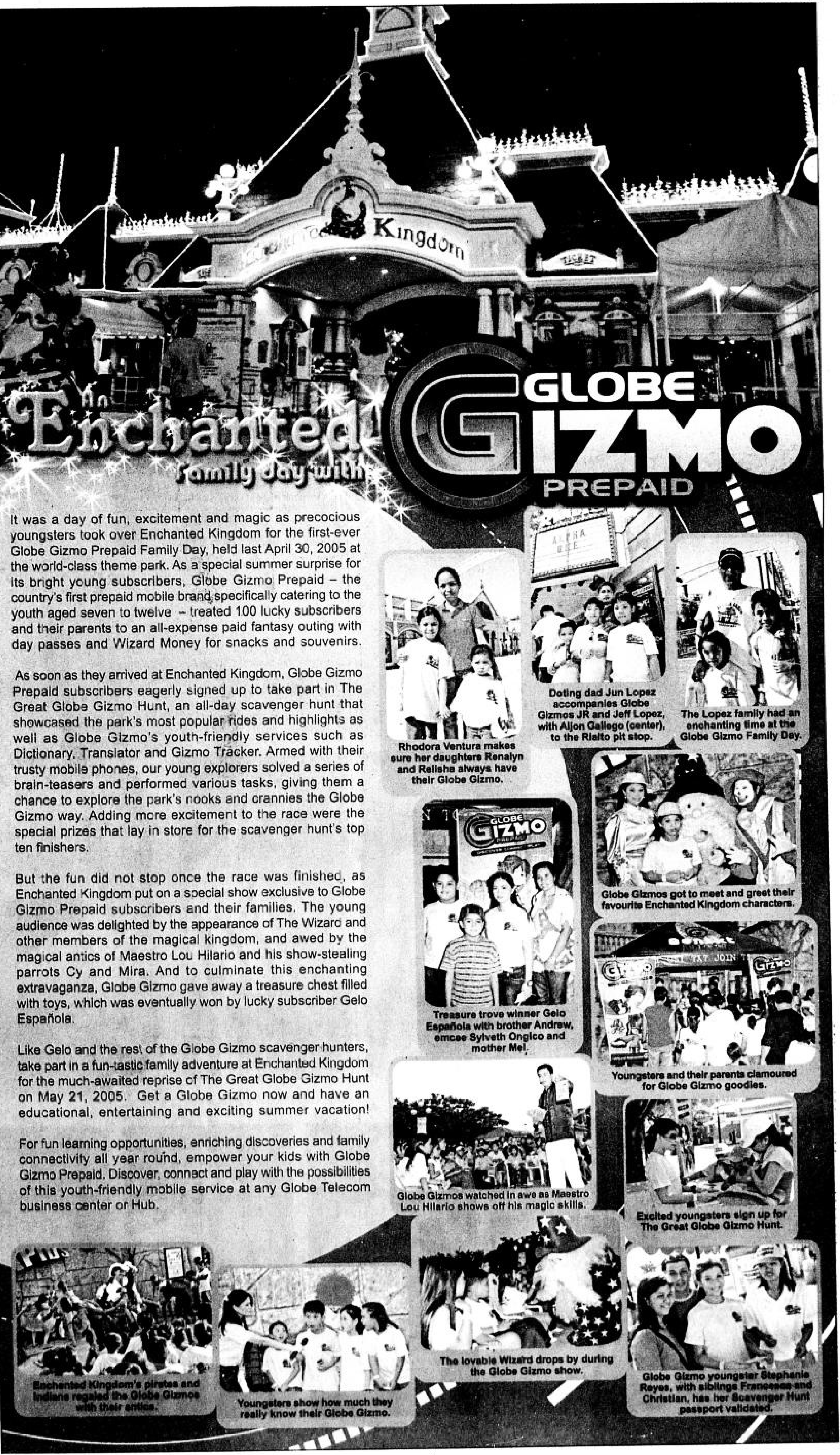
Crowd favorite Martin Jickain, older broth-

ITSY/C2

IMPOSING Anna Rose Jebb



BRIAN Canilao and Jane Tuazon


An Enchanted family day with GLOBE GIZMO PREPAID

It was a day of fun, excitement and magic as precocious youngsters took over Enchanted Kingdom for the first-ever Globe Gizmo Prepaid Family Day, held last April 30, 2005 at the world-class theme park. As a special summer surprise for its bright young subscribers, Globe Gizmo Prepaid – the country's first prepaid mobile brand specifically catering to the youth aged seven to twelve – treated 100 lucky subscribers and their parents to an all-expense paid fantasy outing with day passes and Wizard Money for snacks and souvenirs.

As soon as they arrived at Enchanted Kingdom, Globe Gizmo Prepaid subscribers eagerly signed up to take part in The Great Globe Gizmo Hunt, an all-day scavenger hunt that showcased the park's most popular rides and highlights as well as Globe Gizmo's youth-friendly services such as Dictionary, Translator and Gizmo Tracker. Armed with their trusty mobile phones, our young explorers solved a series of brain-teasers and performed various tasks, giving them a chance to explore the park's nooks and crannies the Globe Gizmo way. Adding more excitement to the race were the special prizes that lay in store for the scavenger hunt's top ten finishers.

But the fun did not stop once the race was finished, as Enchanted Kingdom put on a special show exclusive to Globe Gizmo Prepaid subscribers and their families. The young audience was delighted by the appearance of The Wizard and other members of the magical kingdom, and awed by the magical antics of Maestro Lou Hilario and his show-stealing parrots Cy and Mira. And to culminate this enchanting extravaganza, Globe Gizmo gave away a treasure chest filled with toys, which was eventually won by lucky subscriber Gelo Española.

Like Gelo and the rest of the Globe Gizmo scavenger hunters, take part in a fun-tastic family adventure at Enchanted Kingdom for the much-awaited reprise of The Great Globe Gizmo Hunt on May 21, 2005. Get a Globe Gizmo now and have an educational, entertaining and exciting summer vacation!

For fun learning opportunities, enriching discoveries and family connectivity all year round, empower your kids with Globe Gizmo Prepaid. Discover, connect and play with the possibilities of this youth-friendly mobile service at any Globe Telecom business center or Hub.

Rhodora Ventura makes sure her daughters Renalyn and Relisha always have their Globe Gizmo.

Doting dad Jun Lopez accompanies Globe Gizmos JR and Jeff Lopez, with Aljon Gallego (center), to the Rialto pit stop.

The Lopez family had an enchanting time at the Globe Gizmo Family Day.

Globe Gizmos got to meet and greet their favourite Enchanted Kingdom characters.

Treasure trove winner Gelo Española with brother Andrew, emcee Sylveth Ongico and mother Mel.

Youngsters and their parents clamoured for Globe Gizmo goodies.

Globe Gizmos watched in awe as Maestro Lou Hilario shows off his magic skills.

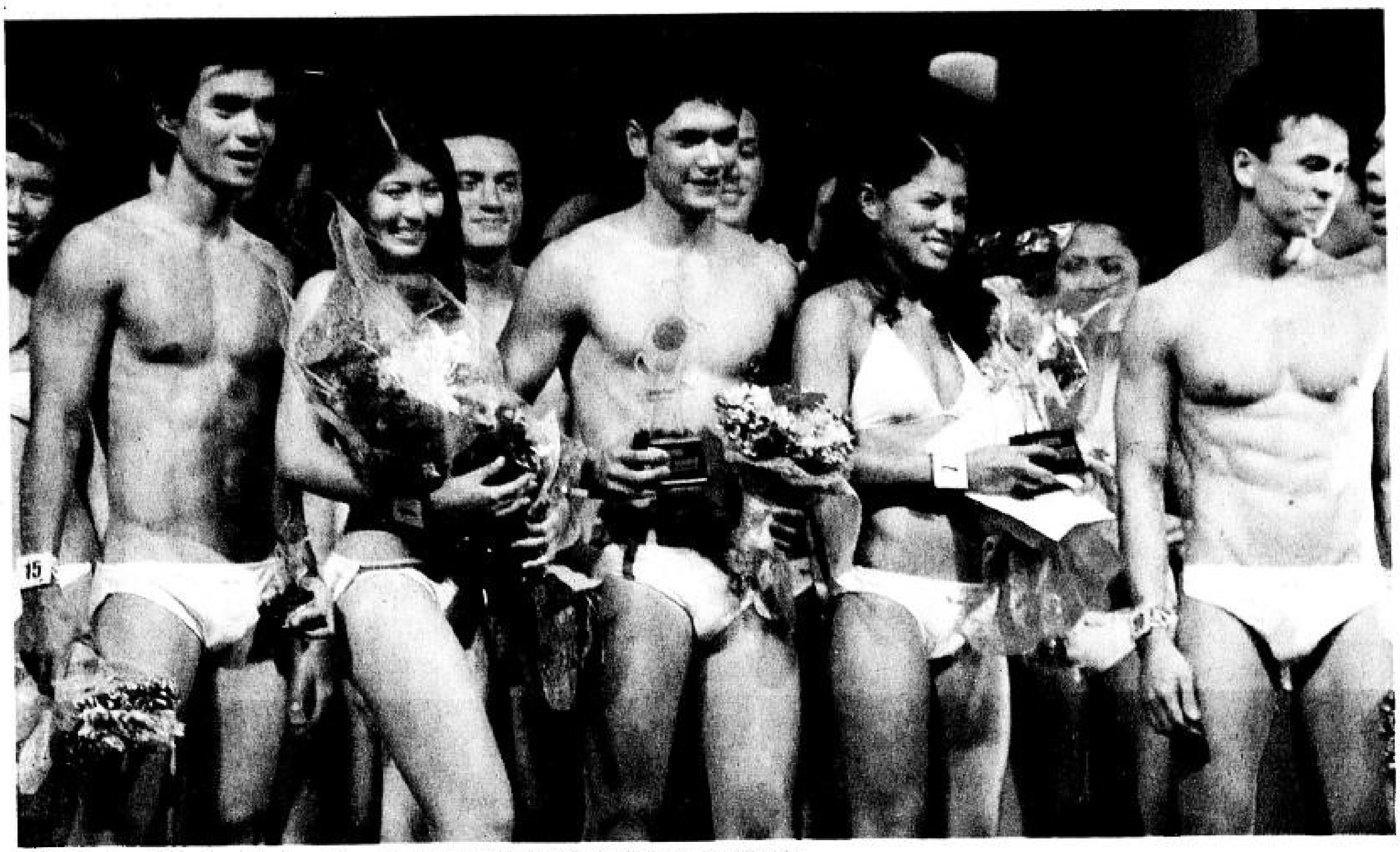
Excited youngsters sign up for The Great Globe Gizmo Hunt.

Enchanted Kingdom's pirates and Indians regaled the Globe Gizmos with their antics.

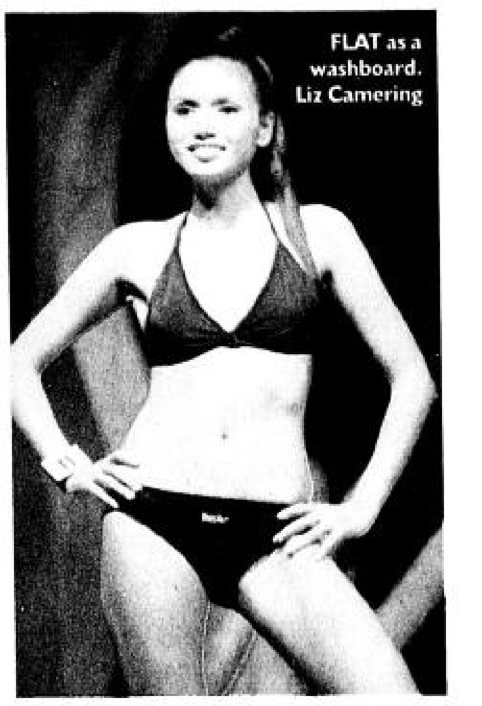
Youngsters show how much they really know their Globe Gizmo.

The lovable Wizard drops by during the Globe Gizmo show.

Globe Gizmo youngster Stephanie Reyes, with siblings Francesca and Christian, has her Scavenger Hunt passport validated.



HARD bodies all. Handrew Maxilom, Deen, Einar Ingerbrigsten, Denise Montecillo and Jickain



FLAT as a washboard. Liz Camering

COVERED up. Mariam Corral

Itsy-bitsy-teeny-weeney

From page C1

er of Luke Jickain, couldn't hide his disappointment as he settled for first runner-up. It was his second time to join the contest, and he obviously prepared for it—from his rebonded hair down to his six-pack (or were they eight) abs. *"Kinareer"* (he took it seriously) in gay parlance. Well, he can take solace in the fact that the exposure may further boost his already burgeoning modeling career.

The other finalists were Mariam Corral (first runner-up for the women), and Handrew Maxilom and Kathleen Deen (second runners-up).

Abbey Rangasajo, Anna Rose Jebb, Liz Camering, Harley Ng, Mico Areglado and Kerwin Yap made it to the semifinals.

Unlike winners in other contests, Einar and Denise aren't bound to a contract to exclusively endorse Mossimo. And such leniency appears to be working, as the tilt seems to be attracting youngsters with the most potential.

Since it burst into the scene four years ago, the Mossimo Bikini Summit has slowly supplanted Body Shots as the leading passport for aspiring models. Months before the contest, not a few wannabes crowd leading gyms such as Gold's in preparation for the big night.

Pluses

Einar and Denise may not be blessed with the best bodies, but they possessed a few pluses that some of their fellow hopefuls didn't have: fresh faces and lean physiques that can easily be recast or molded depending on the client's requirements. Unlike, say, the veteran Martin, the two are not yet in any danger of overexposure any time soon.

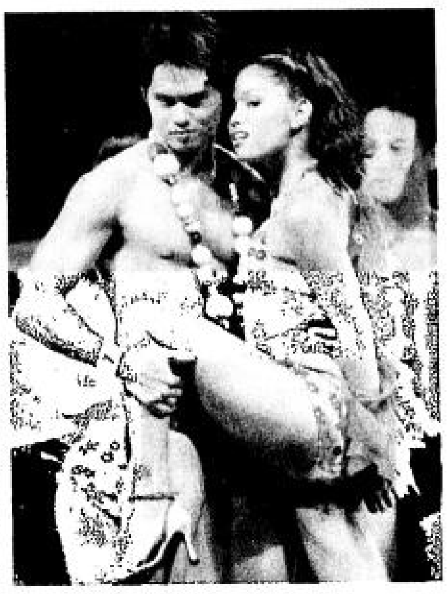
The pair now joins the ranks of former Mossimo winners Carlo Maceda, AJ Dee, Jordan Herrera and Brent Javier. From virtual unknowns, these guys have now become household names after doing well either as entertainers or models.

For some reason, no top female winner from Mossimo has yet made it big. Society watcher and lifestyle journalist Tim Yap, one of the evening's hosts, attributes this to the fairer sex's lack of determination to excel in modeling or entertainment.

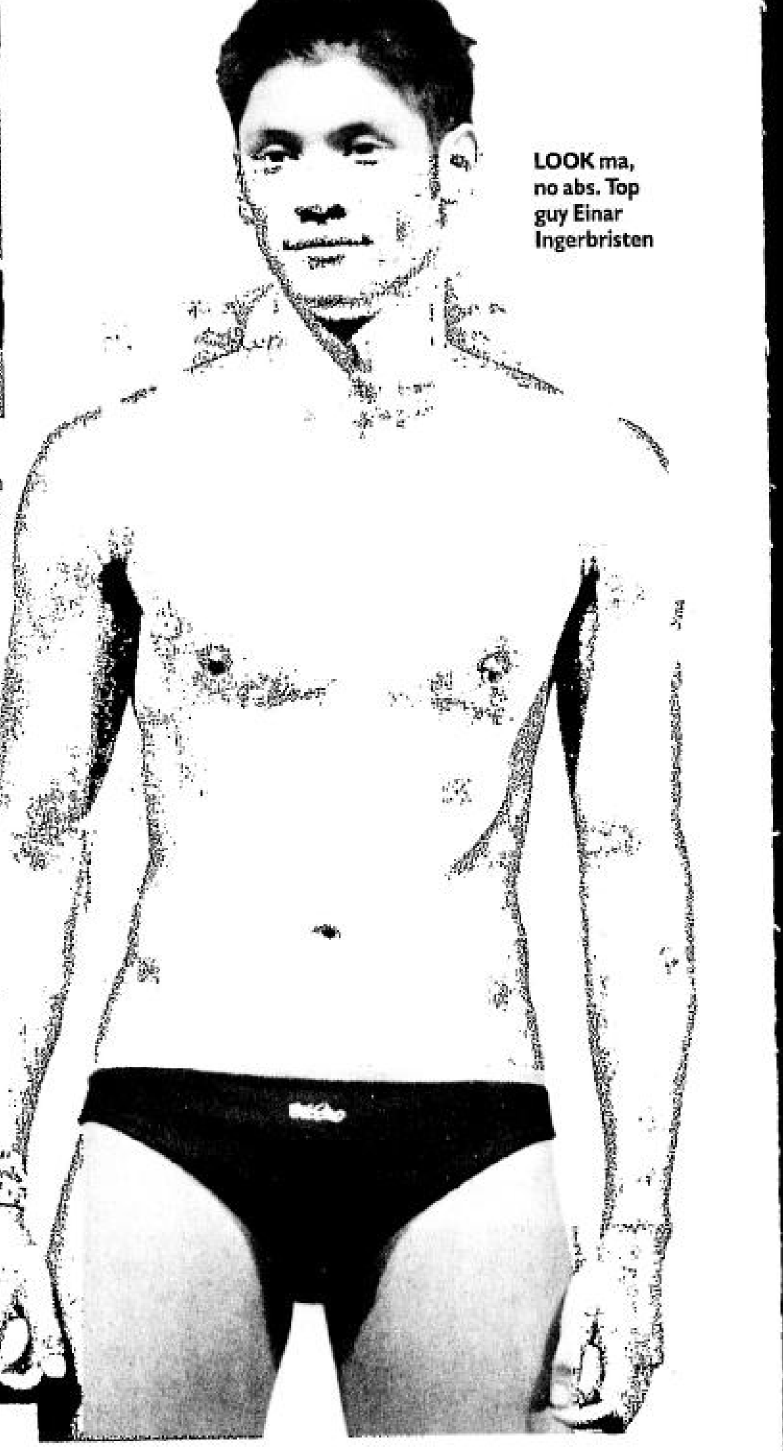
While not a few aspiring male models and show-biz upstarts spend time in gyms and grooming salons in preparation for future assignments, says Yap, female hopefuls, especially those with foreign blood, often leave the country or pursue other interests soon after winning a contest.

Abs or no abs, only time will tell if Einar, Denise or any member of their court has got what it takes to last in the competitive and often fickle world of modeling.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

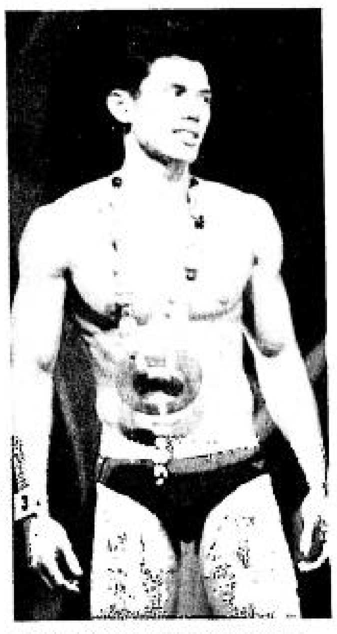


RAMON del Prado and Montecillo



LOOK ma, no abs. Top guy Einar Ingerbristen

BIKINI queen Denise Montecillo



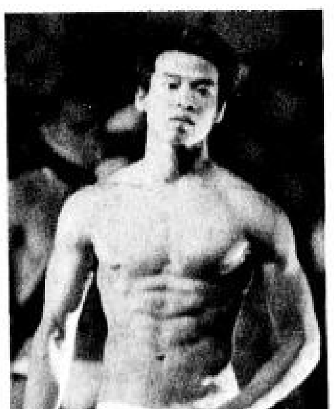
RIPPLES, belive it or not. Mico Areglado

BACK off. Carlos Concepcion

IN the cut. Wella Khonghun

A MISS he ain't. Kerwin Yap

ALL that jazz. Jasmine Maierhofer



TO the limits. Harley Ng

RIBBONS and strings. Ashley Spencer

SUPER dude. Joseph Salomon

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***RANS** Dried Pusit Buo 100g P39/pack

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P24.25 pack **BLUSKIES** Spring Onion (10's) 25g

P14.50 each **NESVITA** Low Fat Milk Powder 31g

P23.50 each **SAFEGUARD** White 135g

P187 pack **EQ BASIC** Big Pack Medium Diapers (32's)

P98.40 each **LADY'S CHOICE** Mayonnaise 470ml

P65.25 each **PRINGLES** Sour Cream & Onion 190g

P19.50 each **PUREFOODS** Chinese Luncheon Meat 165g

P14.75 each **DEL MONTE** Fruit Express Tidbits 130g

P15 each **SANICARE** Bathroom Tissue 600 shts (singles)

P31.75 each **CLEENE** Absobent Cotton 100g

P48.50 each **DEL MONTE** Fruit Express Sliced 836g

P22.25 pack **BLUSKIES** Milk (10's) 25g

P43 each **EXCELLENT** Pancit Kanton 500g

P21 each **CARNATION** Condensed Milk 155ml

P147.25 pack **DR. P** Unisex Basic Diapers Medium (10's)

P21.50 each **SAFEGUARD** Papaya 90g

P41.80 each **PUREFOODS** Corned Beef 210g

P76 each **NESVITA** Non Fat Milk Powder 180g

P65.25 each **PRINGLES** Original 190g

P53.25 each **BLUSKIES** Plain (26's) 25g

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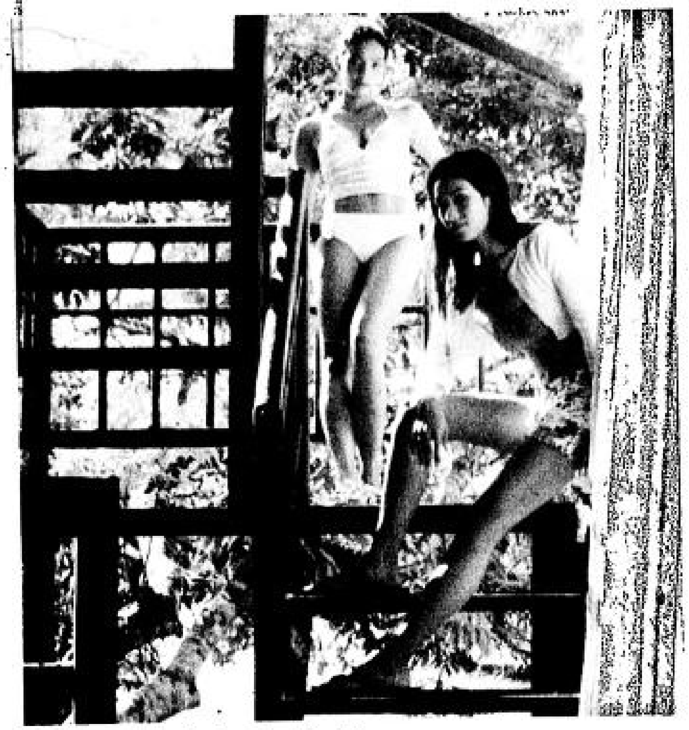
- Nepo Mall Dagupan

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT # 0998 SERIES OF 2005


SUMMER sizzles in these hot, hot pieces.

BASK under the summer sun in glam getups.

SUNSHINY days

Style on the beach

RELAX and enjoy in style this summer by embracing bold pieces and impressionable cuts. In short, the Folded & Hung way.

From tankinis and bikinis to board shorts and trunks, F&H captures the essence of taking a break the cosmopolitan way.

Designed for high-energy, active individuals who prize both fashion and comfort, the brand has launched a new swimwear line made from top-quality nylon/spandex that stretch and shimmer, making it great not just for frolicking under the sun but also for lounging around in style.

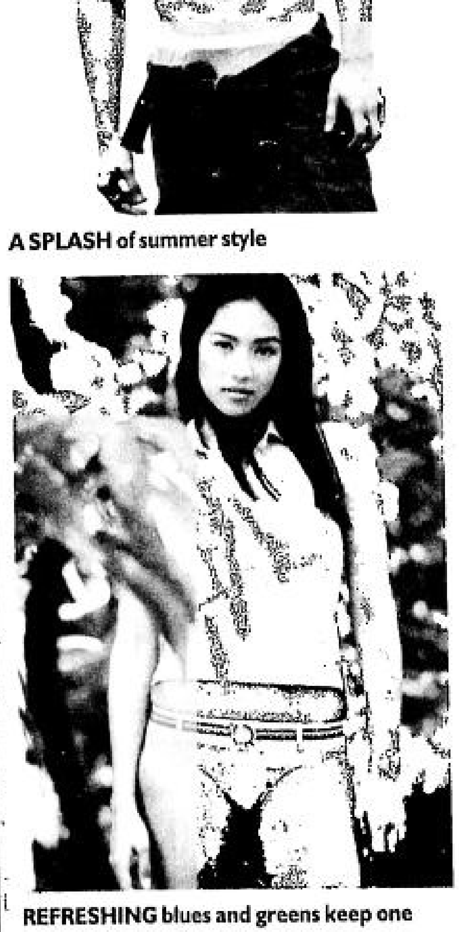
Influenced by the carefree style of the '60s, F&H's new swimwear line for women offers pieces with unique cuts and designs in hot pinks and cool blues.

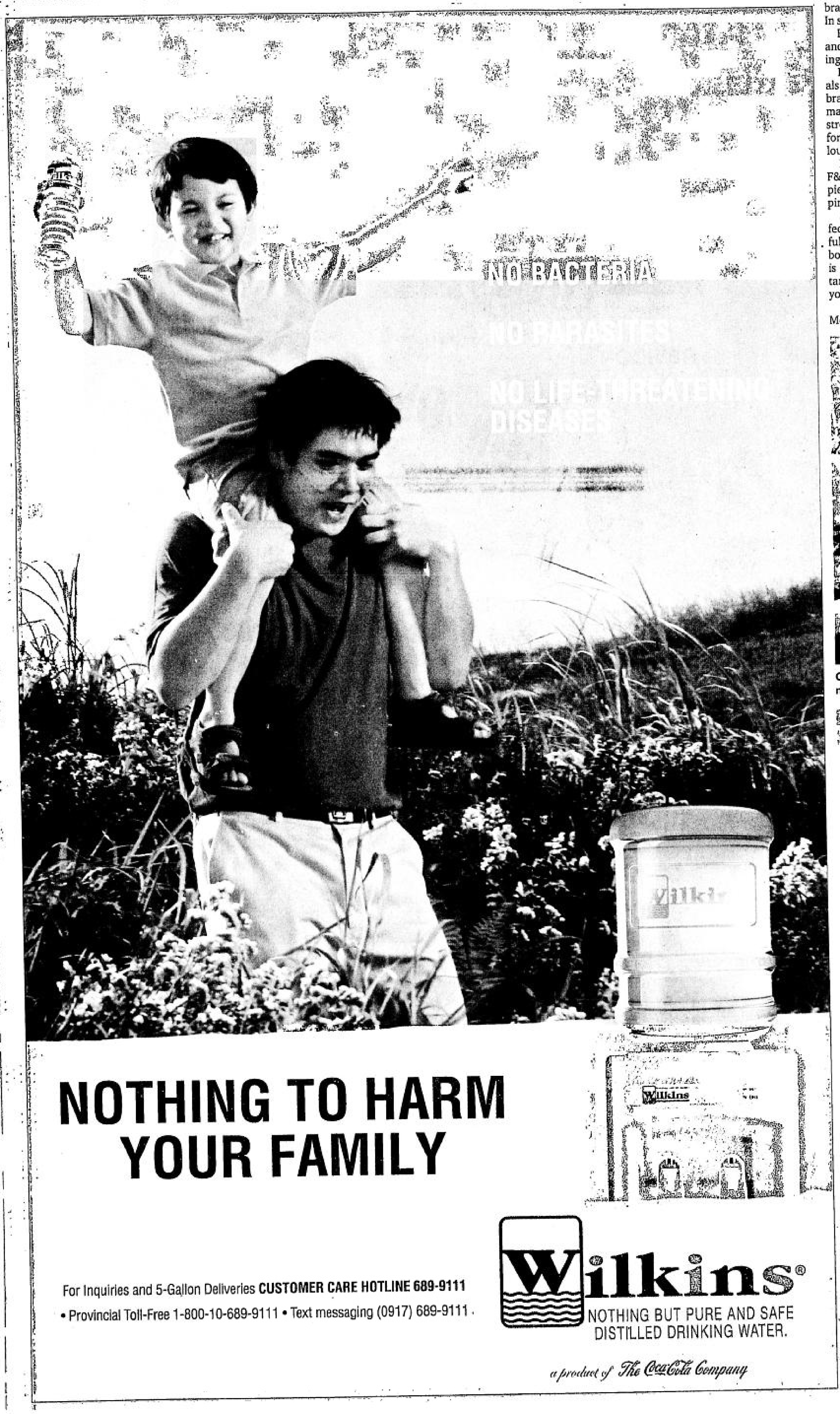
String bikinis and bandeau types are perfect for skinny, small-busted women, while full-figured ladies will definitely look good in both haltered and string bikinis. If your body is apple-shaped or you've got a big tummy, tankinis will hide your flaws and emphasize your strengths.

Folded & Hung stores are located all over Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

GEOMETRIC prints and interesting patterns make Folded & Hung this season's must-have.

A SPLASH of summer style


REFRESHING blues and greens keep one cool on long hot days.



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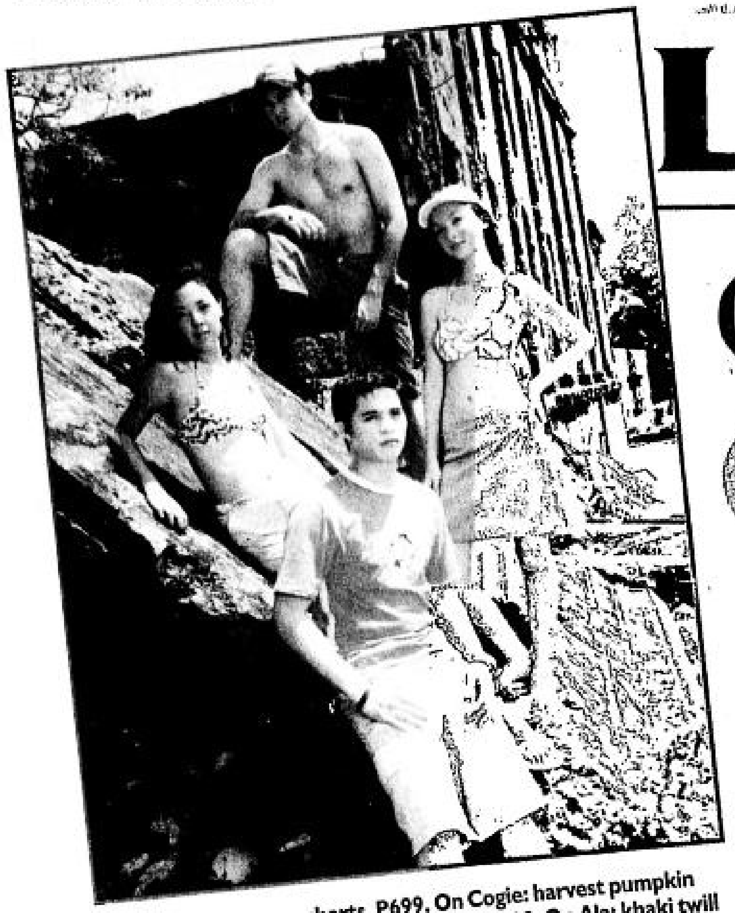
LIFESTYLE

Culture, color and fun



ON MIKE: rust cargo shorts, P699. On Cogie: harvest pumpkin crewneck tee, P369; khaki cargo shorts, P699. On Ala: khaki twill shorts with hibiscus facing, P549; olive green floral triangle top, P499. On Dawn: fatigue wraparound skirt, P549; dark green bandeau, P499

ON COGIE: bright green men's ringer tee, P369; walnut herringbone pants, P899. On Ala: blue bootcut pants with hibiscus hem, P899; red striped top, P399. On Mike: light blue men's polo, P649; dark blue men's cargo shorts, P699. On Dawn: mint leaf tank top, P249; pink flounce skirt, P599

IT'S time to put on those shades, pack your bags with your most colorful outfits from the Penshoppe summer collection, and round up your pals to plot your summertime itinerary.

But instead of hitting the usual hotspots, why not explore more historic options like Corregidor Island, just an hour-long boat ride from Manila Bay?

Combine culture and fun with friends as you tour the sights in "The Rock"—the well-preserved WWII cannons at Battery Way, the remnants of the old movie theater called Cine Corregidor, the imposing ruins of the Mile-Long Barracks at Topside and Middleside, the solemn Pacific War Memorial that houses the Eternal Flame monument, the Spanish lighthouse with its breathtaking views of Manila Bay and the South China Sea, MacArthur Park, the Malinta Tunnel that once served as headquarters of the valiant Fil-American troops in WWII, and the Japanese Garden of Peace Park at Tailside with its 10-ft stone Buddha, Shinto shrine and various anti-aircraft weapon relics.

But before you hit the island, bid farewell to all those drab outfits in black and beige and usher in the colorful hues of the summer. Make a splash with Penshoppe's colorful summer collection, with its vibrant tones of hot pink, baby blue, mint leaf, blush pink, fiery red, fatigue and yellow, that are sure to make you stand out from the monotonous throng of foreign tourists.

Take your pick from a wide array of comfy tees and tank tops, relaxed Denimlab jeans,

CULTURE/ D3

ON DAWN: dark pink striped triangle top, P499; dark pink bikini, P259. On Ala: olive green striped triangle top, P499; olive green boy-shorts bottom, P259

CORREGIDOR
TOUR

OLIVE green halter top, P499; olive green boy-shorts bottom, P259

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THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER

BERNARD Palanca usually goes to his gimmicks clad in Oxygen tee and jeans.

OXYGEN has 32 boutiques nationwide.

Cool, comfy, eye-catching

THE OXYGEN habit is catching on, with hunk Bernard Palanca becoming the latest prey to Oxygen's fashion magnet.

Bj, as he is called by friends, is a gimmick icon and he definitely looks it: cool but exciting, eye-catching but unassuming. Bj's personal faves are Oxygen's Euro-fit tees. He loves how it makes his shoulder look broader and how it gives him a leaner look. Together with his tees are his pairs of Oxygen boot cut, low-rise jeans, which gives him the most comfy fit. For Bj, Oxygen is like the keys to his car. He can never go to his gimmicks without them.

Check out what's hot in any of Oxygen's 32 boutiques nationwide.

PALANCA loves the way Oxygen's Euro-fit tees make his shoulders look broader while giving him a leaner look.

Robinsons Supermarket
Robinsons SUPERCENTER
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health & beauty mania!

Great buys on Health and Beauty products!

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April 22 - June 5, 2005

Get a chance to WIN a DREAM PRIZE with every P300 (single receipt) worth of purchase of participating products.

5 Nokia 7610

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PLUS! 300 consolation prizes at stake!

150 Foot Spa Cascade (5 winners per store)

150 Sports Bag (5 winners per store)

*Photos shown may vary from actual prize.

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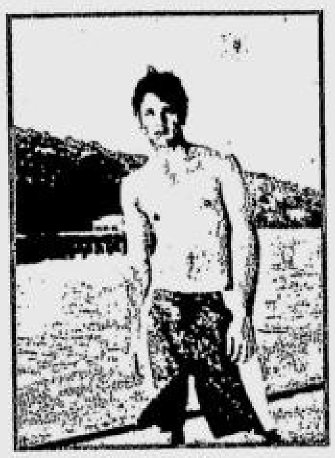
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Nepo Mall Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

See flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0998 Series of 2005.

DARK pink floral halter top, P499; dark pink bikini, P259



BOARD shorts, P749

1397 SINGAPORE
SYDNEY
MANILA
SAN FRANCISCO 6972
693 HONG KONG

ON COGIE: crystal blue crewneck tee, P369; blue board shorts, P699. On Mike: navy board shorts, P749. On Dawn: light-pink floral triangle top, P499; light-pink bikini, P259

Culture, color and fun

From page D1

breezy button-down polos, asymmetrical halter tops, casual shorts and skirts and multicolored caps.

It's also the perfect occasion to show off those tanned and toned physiques with Penshoppe's swimwear line. This season's selection has bikinis, tankinis and surf shorts. Add a fanciful touch to your tropical outfits with Penshoppe's Hibiscus line of floral patterns and whimsical swirls: flounce skirts with satin ribbons, stretch twill shorts, capri pants and board shorts in cotton nylon.

Further enhance your beach-bound look with Penshoppe's wide selection of shades, striped totes, flip flops, wooden sandals, canvas belts, white sneaks and flats.

Penshoppe is located in leading shopping malls and department stores nationwide.

ON ALA: hot pink baby doll tunic, P399; white capri pants with hibiscus print, P799. On Mike: khaki cargo shorts, P699; red crewneck tee, P369

ON MIKE: board shorts, P749; blue knight cutoff tee, P329. On Cogie: rust cargo pants, P699; blue crewneck tee, P369

DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES
BATAAN
CORREGIDOR
MINDANAO
VISAYAN ISLANDS
BALIKPAPAN
JAVA SEA
SUNDA STRAIT

ON COGIE: blue knight cut-off tee, P329; khaki cargo pants, P599. On Dawn: pink hibiscus miniskirt, P549; powder-blue tee, P329

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Everyone's invited!

Anlene
Love your Bones

2nd Level, Carousel Court, Festival Supermall,
Filinvest, Alabang
Saturday, May 14, 2005

Programme (1:30 & 6pm)
Hosted by
Mickey Ferriols
Aerobics session conducted by
Regine Tolentino

• Fun Games • Raffle
• Lecture on Bone Health & Osteoporosis

(From 10am onwards)
• FREE Anlene Sampling • FREE Bone Scanning
• FREE Consultations • FREE Reflexology
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Ang Lakas ng Dating ng Globe sa Lucban

INTENSITY G

PAHIYAS FESTIVAL

ENJOY THE BIGGEST HARVEST FEST IN LUCBAN THIS SUMMER – ONLY FROM GLOBE!

CHECK OUT GLOBE'S HUGE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE LIST OF EVENTS!

May 9: Opening Tiangge, 2 PM at Kiosko-Marcos Tigla Park
Opening Art Exhibit, 3 PM at R. Catholic Ground
Mayor's Cup Basketball league, 6:30 PM at R. Catholic Ground

May 10: Inter-barrio Palaro ng Lahi, 8 AM at the RPN Covered Court
Santacruzan Senior Citizen, 4 PM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Mayor's Cup Championship, 4 PM at the R. Catholic Ground

May 11: Agro-Guinness, 10 AM at Kiosko
Ginoo at Binibining Lucban 2005, 7 PM at the SLPC Gym

May 12: 12th Bunsuran Takbuhan, 8 AM at the Calumpang Junction to Lucban Town Proper
Juego De Anillo, 9 AM at the RPN Covered Court
Grand Santacruzan, 7 PM in front of Municipal Bldg.
Beer Plaza, 8 PM at Quezon Avenue

May 13: 1st Longganisa Festival, 9 AM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
1st Native Festival (Buntal & Buri Hat Weaving), 2 PM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Session Road concert, 9 PM at Pipes Bar

May 14: Tapas King and Queen, 7 AM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Bayo Ko! Tahip Mo!, 9 AM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Higante Parade, 2 PM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Gayak Anihan Karosa and the Pansit Festival, 2 PM along Pahiyas Route
Globe Intensity G Concert feat. Moonstar 88 & Route 16, 7 PM at Rizal Park

May 15: Procession, 7 AM along Pahiyas Route
Pili Timpalak Pahiyas, 8 AM along Pahiyas Route
Pasyal Tanghalan, 10 AM along Pahiyas Route
Grand Parade, 2 PM at town proper
Awarding of Parikitan Winners, 5 PM at Rizal Park
Timpalak Pahiyas Kutitap, 6 PM along Pahiyas Route
Globe Intensity G Concert feat. Skin 646 & Retrospect, 8 PM at Rizal Park

May 16: Padyak! Takbo! Padyak! (Duathlon sa Lucban Pahiyas), 7 AM in front of Municipal Bldg.
Timpalak Pahiyas Awarding Ceremonies, 2 PM in front of Municipal Bldg.

PLUS, COMPLETE YOUR QUEZON TRIP WITH MAYOHAN SA TAYABAS!

May 15: Hagaran, 7AM in front of the Municipal Bldg
Street Dancing Competition, 8 AM at LPNHS in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Paligsahan Sa Pahiyas, 9 AM at Munting Bayan
Katutubong Palaro, 9 AM at Parke Rizal
Hagisan Ng Suman, 1 PM in front of the Municipal Bldg.
Palakihan, Pasarapan ng Suman, 2 PM at Parke Rizal
Cine Sa Casa, 2 PM at Casa Comunidad
Street Party, 7 PM at Parke Rizal
Lambanog, Naay! Pakinabangan Stage Play, 7 PM at Casa Comunidad
Baylehan, 7 PM at Silungan Bayan
Globe Intensity G Concert feat. Route 16, 8 PM at Parke Rizal

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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2075, series of 2005.

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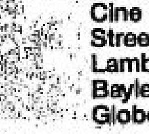

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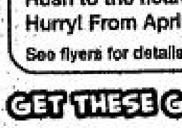

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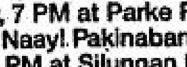
TEXT CARDS



TC pahiyas4

TC pahiyas5

LOGOS

PAHIYAS
L pahiyas2

pahiyas
L pahiyas3

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making a great summer possible

Globe HANDYPHONE

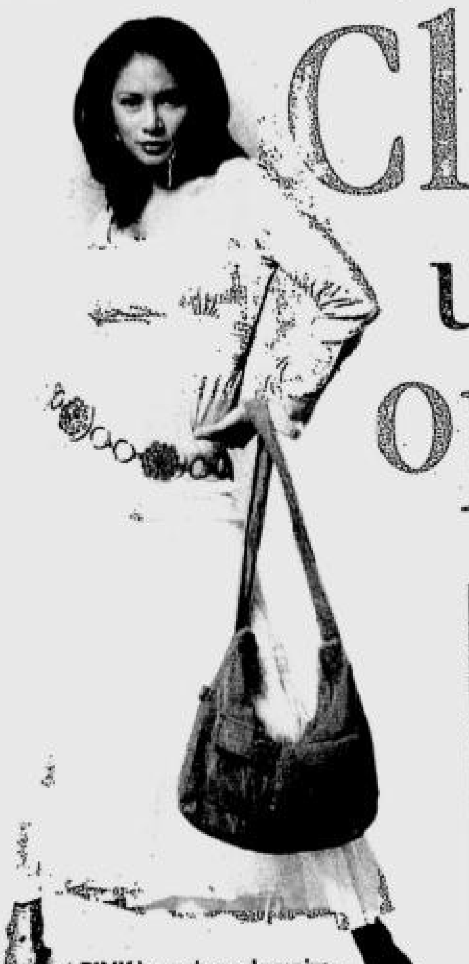
LIFESTYL

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
name/age/city/message to
07 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Classy, upbeat options

TURQUOISE Aztec jersey dress, bootcut denim jeans



PINK long-sleeved empire-scoop top, metal chain belt, chocolate corduroy dispatch bag, white-long tiered skirt

FOR FASHION to work really well for you, consider these basic qualities: style, comfort, quality and functionality.

Ask yourself if the clothes are in vogue and if they fit you right. Make sure you can mix and match the pieces or if the style is versatile enough to take you from the boardroom to the dance floor in a flash (just add accessories and you're off to a night of serious partying!).

Take it from former beauty queen, supermodel and working mom Patty Betita, who feels right at home in Dorothy Perkins clothes.

The UK-based fashion label offers wardrobe staples as well as stylish choices and the season's must-haves that cover every aspect of a woman's life.

Its 2005 Spring/Summer collection is an irresistible mix of classy and upbeat clothes highlighted by frilly designs, luxurious embellishments and creatively designed mix-and-match options that spell versatility.

CLASSY/E3

WHITE cami top with lace, tan wide braided belt, long-sleeved dark-wash denim jacket

WHITE tunic 3/4-sleeve top, tan braided belt with round metal buckle, khaki linen crop pants, dispatch bag

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Visit your nearest Samsung dealer now!

OMEGA

How to join
1. A consumer who purchases a Samsung D-500 mobile phone from any Samsung selected authorized dealer is entitled to 1 raffle entry.
2 The warranty card and the attached raffle coupon to the Samsung D-500 mobile phone must be filled out by the consumer. He/she must indicate his/her name, address, telephone number (if any), and affix his/her signature and drop at designated drop boxes located at any Samsung selected authorized dealers.
3 The deadline for submission of entries is on May 30, 2005 at 9:00 am.

How to win
4 Raffle draw shall be held on June 06, 2005, Monday at 6pm in the Samsung office at the Ground floor of Bonaventure Plaza in Ortigas Avenue in the presence of a DTI representative.
5 A winner can only win once. If a name wins more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize.
6 The prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
7 Samsung will pay for the 20% tax in excess of P10,000.00 for the prizes.
8 The winners will be informed through registered mail and an announcement on a publication of general circulation will be made.

How to claim
9 Complete address of redemption center
For Metro Manila: Ground Floor Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue., Greenhills, San Juan.
For Provincial: The dealer where the phone was purchased.
10 Winners must present at least 1 of any valid IDs (passport, birth certificate, driver's license) and registered mail when claiming the prize.
11 Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Cheil Marketing with prior approval of DTI.
12 Employees and relatives of Samsung employees, Cheil Marketing and all its affiliated marketing, PR, ad and promotion agencies from the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.

Promo period: 18 March to 30 May, 2005

Per DTI-NCR No. 0688, Series of 2005

THE BEAUTIFUL PACK. Gorgeous Bubbles Paraiso, siblings John and Camille Prats, working gal Leah Puyat and the alluring ZsaZsa Padilla

MARZO Samson, stunning model Nicolette Bell, headturner Rissa Samson, well-liked Ton Lao and Bench's Brian Lim

TONI Abad; Rhoda Campos with her steady escort, el simpatico Vince Aldanese; man of the hour Keren Pascual; Paolo Abad; luminous actress Sandy Andolong with her husband, Christopher de Leon

Superstars all over

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

HOTSHOTS of society, the movies, TV and fashion were around when my dear pal, the PR man for all seasons, **Keren Pascual**, no less, threw one of his oh-so-original parties for the 35th anniversary of the Adidas Superstar, and his birthday, which he tried to keep a secret but failed, *palanggas*.

Adidas has been around for so long that, heck, others and *moi* will swear by them. You can spot its comfy walking babies from the basketball court to the catwalk and stage here and everywhere else in the world.

The chi-chi designs of the world's most famous show silhouette was brought back to life just for the occasion and with a choice of over 30 designs. Goodness gracious, great balls of fire, *palanggas*, even Goofy has his own Superstar!

The fun bash was set at the casual-chic Red Resto in Makati Shangri-La Hotel. *Apres* a treat of cocktails that got everyone in the mood to party, the giant K double doors at the entrance to the dining room revealed the so-cute, brightly colored letters of the alphabet.

Once the sumptuous dinner was served, we sank our teeth into the precious designer cakes in the shape of Adidas shoe boxes, with tiny Superstars propped on them (especially created by the genius in cakes, **Martha Matute**).

Hey, even the guest list was a veritable who's-who of our very own superstars—not the shoes, *palanggas*, but show-biz royalty—that graced this little dinner party.

I schmoozed with the King of Comedy **Dolphy**, his hot date, diva **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, and his talented sons, **Epi** and **Eric Quizon**. I also mingled with show-biz's hot new blood, **Luis Alandy**; celebrated siblings **John** and **Camille Prats**; and gorgeous model **Phoemela Barranda**.

As in all Keren's happening, dahlings, there were lots of heavenly bodies such as the beautiful brother-sister duo of **Paolo** and **Bubbles Paraiso**; sizzling Bench billboard model, **Luke Jickain**; spicy hot **Mikee Carreon**; the "livewire" **Boom Labrusca**; and supermodel **Rissa Mananquil** (with her husband **Marz Samson**). Popular fashion designer **Rajo Laurel** was also present.

Smart executives **Ricky Isla** and Boy Martinez (with his wife, *tres charmente* **Marilu**) were there, as well as Adidas executives **Angelica Suiza** and **Andrew Garcia**.

Badminton enthusiasts **Luz Siguion-Reyna**, **Carol Francisco**, **Reena Aguilar** and **Gem Padilla** rubbed elbows with Bench head **Ben Chan**, nice **Brian Lim**, smart architect **Miguel Pastor**, Dr. **Aye Nuguid**, photographers **Patrick Uy** and **Alex Van Hagen**, Tatler's irrepressible editor in chief **Anton San Diego**, socialite **Sigalit Djemal**, fashion director **Ariel Lozada** and smart **Joy Wassmer**, the PR of Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Let's not forget, *palanggas*, that this happening was also Keren Pascual's birthday. No wonder there were giant K's at the entrance.

We all sang the happy birthday song and blew the candles on our Adidas fondant cakes, as a tribute to this gregarious PR royal.

But back to Adidas.

A classic after 35 years, Adidas has insinuated itself into our modern culture, going as far as even becoming a symbol of the joie de vivre of the youth.

I wonder, though, since even Goofy and Andy Warhol got shoes named after them, when will Adidas finally cave in and include our very own shoe icon, the imeldific **Imelda** herself, in the next line of Adidas Superstars! Hey! Why not, *di bala*.

Diesel: fueled for fashion

Diesel's "Welcome to the Future" gathered music enthusiasts, night party crawlers and the most beautiful people in town.

Top mannequins paraded Diesel's signature statement for spring/summer 2005. Dancers heated up the happening with a sizzling flamenco dance number, while top DJ, our pal **Jon Herrera**, dished out music arrangements from Lenny Kravitz to the disco standards of James Brown, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, U2 and even Michael Jackson!

MTV VJs **Sarah Meier** and **KC Montero** joined the bash at this Diesel nation. Also from the MTV camp were the lovely **Cindy Kurleto**, music maverick **Marc Abaya**, sporty **Reema Chanco** and MTV VJ Hunt winner **Don Puno**.

Needless to say, you couldn't help but stare at those hot, hot real-life sweethearts **Borgy Manotoc** and **Ornusa Cadness**—both in their latest Diesel's gear, *palanggas*.

Naturellement, this star-studded affair was beautifully hosted by hottie **Brent Javier**, **Celine Lopez** and lensman-architect **Victor Consunji**.

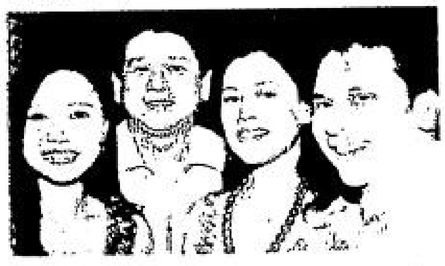
Best sights at the Embassy Club were sultry songstress **Rachel Alejandro**; cutie pie **Nicole Hernandez**; smoldering **Geneva Cruz**; singer **Ogie Alcasid**; young tomcat on the prawl, **RJ Ledesma**; thespian **JM Rodriguez**; pop recording star **Mark Bautista**; beautiful couples **Raymond** and **Anna Palabyab**, and **Raj** and **Kai Prieto**; **Joel Tantoco**; elusive eligible bachelor **Ricky Delgado**; L'Oreal's top gal **Angelique Villaraza**; Embassy and Temple's top man **Eric Cua**; gent for all seasons **Marcel Crespo**; in demand designer **Rhett Eala**; hitting the party scene was model **Wilma Doesnt**; headturner **Angelu de Leon**, plus loads of other event goers just like them.

Yes, *palanggas*, it was exactly how Diesel wanted it—spontaneous, dynamic, big dreams and limitless possibilities! Without doubt, it was one of the hottest parties of the week.

Diesel is exclusively distributed by upscale Stores Specialists Inc., available at Greenbelt 3, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Place and Robinsons Galleria.

SHOW BIZ's new kid on the block, Luis Alandy, with Rajo Laurel and Paolo Paraiso

PRESS Undersecretary Robert Mananquil; Shangri-La's hot GM, Jarlath Lynch; and young entrepreneur Sander Tantoco



RESTAURATEURS Beng and Rikki Dee with Mega's former editor in chief Liza Ilarde and husband, Ipod and Wolfpac's Elbert Cuenca

ARCHITECT Miguel Pastor, columnist and socialite Mons Tantoco, and Bench's main man, Ben Chan

GORGEOUS models Phoemela Baranda, Borgy Manotoc and his favorite gal, Ornusa Cadness

TATLER editor Anton San Diego, starmaker Joji Dingcong and hip Paolo Cabalfin

BENCH image model Luke Jickain, Adidas marketing hotshot Angelica Suiza, birthday boy Keren Pascual, beautiful Lucy Torres and husband Richard Gomez, comedy legend Dolphy, model Phoemela Baranda and talented Epi Quizon

EL CIRKULO'S hottest asset, Malu Gamboa, with Wolfpac hotshots Jun and Mayla Villanueva and Pineapple's Anton Barretto

SMART'S mega boss Boy Martinez and wife Marilu with INQUIRER's hot director, Dennis Valdes (right)

SMART'S Ricky Isla

SEXY Bench image model Zanjoe Marrudo about to attack the shoe cake

HOT TWOSOME. Exotic Raya Mananquil and boyfriend Corey Wills

RICK Yupangco, Noel de la Merced, popular Rey Morena and vivacious Kai Prieto

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE. Bea Constantino, Sarah Meier and Cindy Kurleto

ANTON Huang, Karen Guinto, Stores Specialists Inc. general manager Elizabeth Quiambao, Diesel CEO Roberto Cappelli and Diesel executive manager Myeong Hee Lee

CHIC GALS. Minelli Bautista and Nicole Hernandez

MARCEL Crespo with international Australian model Ilona Novacek

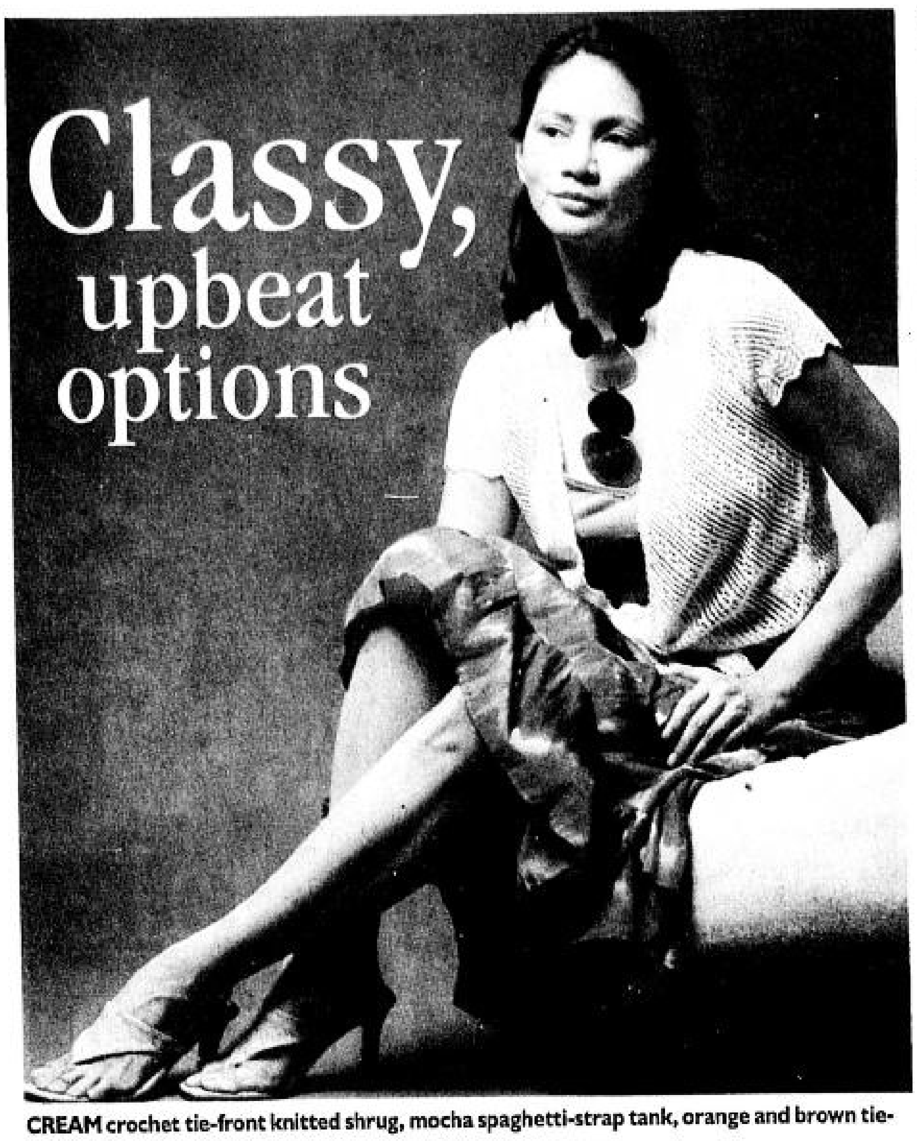
IPE Cruz and PLDT's David Nugent are all smiles.

EMBASSY and Temple's brilliant Eric Cua and computer whiz Elbert Cuenca

SULTRY beauty Emma Policarpio and boy-next-door Paolo Trillo

TRUE PALS. Interior designer Miguel Rosales and party girl Celine Lopez

Classy, upbeat options



CREAM crochet tie-front knitted shrug, mocha spaghetti-strap tank, orange and brown tie-dye skirt

From page E1

Patty, who keeps herself busy modeling and conducting personality development seminars for kids, teens and adults, looks beautiful in Dorothy Perkins' latest Sweet Charity and Tribal looks.

The Sweet Charity collection mixes vintage, Old World charm through country style/urban chic clothing. Victorian blouses are paired with raw-edged tiered skirts as well as utility trousers and soldier jackets.

The Tribal Look is dominantly African-influenced with the use of ethnic prints, earthy shades, wooden embellishments and macramé trims. The clothes have a handcrafted feel to them.

Modern and stylish women like Patty can achieve a variety of looks with Dorothy Perkins' blouses, knitwear, jackets, coats, denims, pants and trousers, suits, skirts, dresses, chic accessories and innerwear line. Sizes for plus-size women are also available (European size 8-18).

As one of the biggest women's fashion houses in the UK, with over 570 stores in Great Britain and 45 outlets in countries around the world, Dorothy Perkins' sensible and flexible fashion helps women slip into the right outfit without the fuss.

In the Philippines, Dorothy Perkins store is at 2/L, Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas. The presence of Dorothy Perkins in the country is made possible by the partnership between Robinsons Specialty Stores Inc. (RSSI), the exclusive franchise holder of the Dorothy Perkins brand in the Philippines, and Arcadia Group of the United Kingdom.

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Hand-stitched and individually stamped, only 612 pairs available.

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SWATCH seasider

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You're the Universe!
Mother's month this May

LAS PIÑAS (872-5249)
May 6- Pilates Class for Moms (Wellness Hub)
May 7- Launching of Star Book Worm Club
"Storytelling at Books for Less"
May 7- Mother's Serenade @ Food Group
May 8- Mom's Scrapbook Making Contest, 10am, Activity Hub
May 8- A Musical Tribute to Moms:
Mother's Serenade @ the Restaurants
May 10- Star Model Quest Bar Tour at Mark's
May 13- Spirit of '67 Concert (Activity Hub)
May 20- Belly Dancing Lessons (Wellness Hub)
May 21- Star Kids Fun Club's Flores de Mayo (Activity Hub)
May 27- Yoga Class (Wellness Hub)

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG (850-3845)
May 6- Aiza Seguerra Concert @ Mark's Bar
May 7- A Mother's Day Special feat. FREESTYLE
May 8- "Mom on the Ramp", Mother & Daughter Fashion show
May 13, 20- Belly Dancing Competition
May 15- Phase Cut Album Tour
May 15- Starland Flower fest mall Parade
May 22- Clay Molding Workshop @ Starland
May 28- Mallwide Santacruzan & Little Miss Starland
Mondays- Ladies' Night @ Mark's Bar (Tequila Body Shots)
Tuesdays- For the Boys @ Mark's
Wednesdays- Solo Star Dance Competition, 4pm, 2nd Level
Thursdays- Arts & Crafts Livelihood Workshops, 2nd Level

EDSA SHAW (718-1886)
May 6- Cuba Libre feat. Aquarela, 8pm, 2/L
May 8- Mother's Day "Musicale" special with Rachelle Ann Go,
4pm, 2/L, Activity Area
May 8- Star Model Quest Bar Tour at Cuba Libre
May 9, 16, 23- Auditions for Rap Competition, 4pm, 2/L, Activity Area
May 12, 19, 26- Rappenings @ the Mall, 4pm, 2/L, Activity Area
May 13, 14, 15- Mallwide Sale
May 28- Flores de Mayo, 3pm, 2/L, Activity Area
Wednesdays and Fridays, Acoustic Nights, 7pm, 3/L, Bridgeway

st rmall
Stay awhile.

DESIGNER Dita Sandico-Ong with Odette Alcantara

AMBASSADOR Jorge Montero; Ambassador Eugene Grobler; Johana, wife of Ambassador Montero; and Tanya Lim Llana

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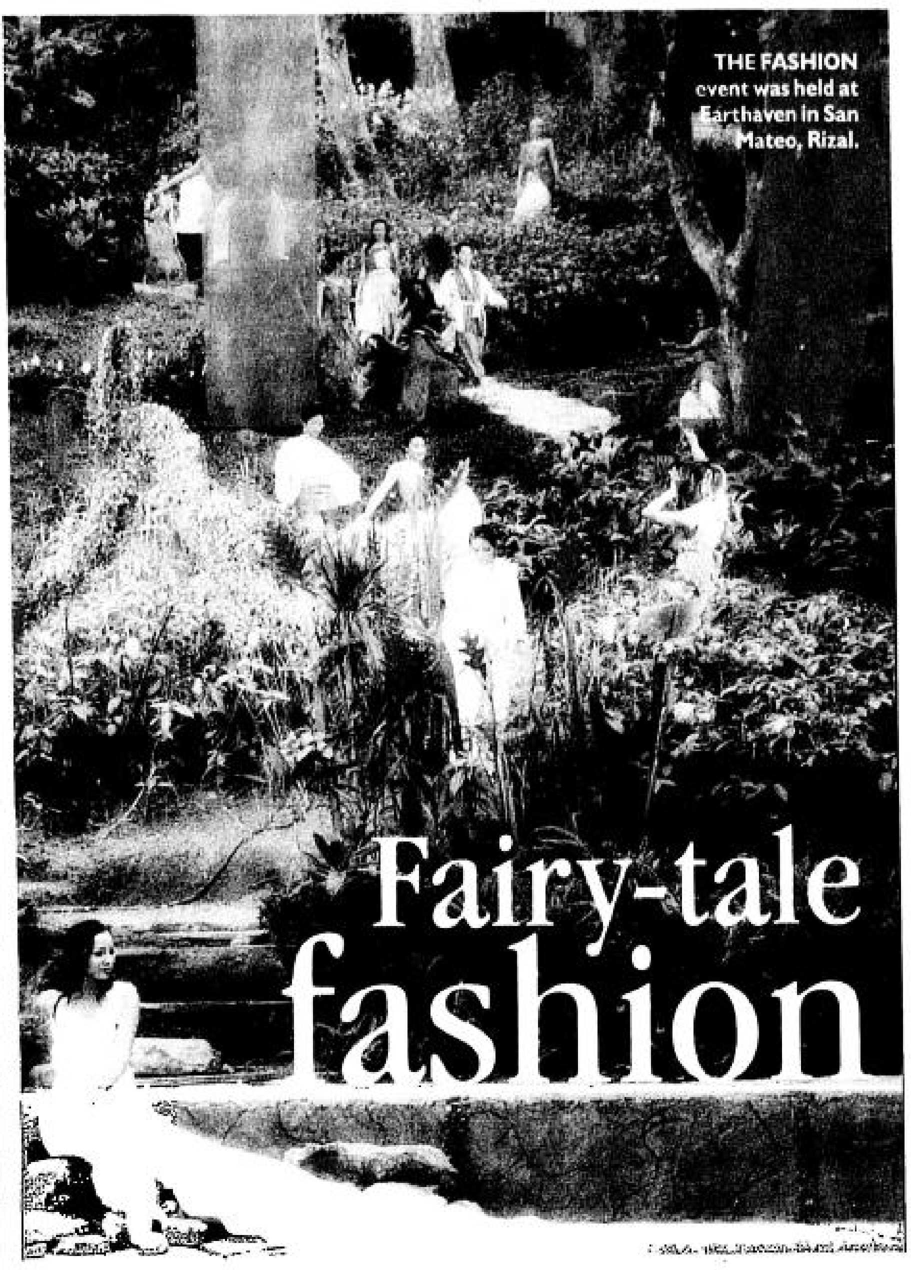


THE FASHION event was held at Earthaven in San Mateo, Rizal.

Fairy-tale fashion

DIWATA, meaning fairy in the Filipino language, has always been a word synonymous to Dita Sandico-Ong's style in fashion.

Her clothes—indigenous, colorful, ethereal and, well, fairy-like—have stood out and made a statement in both the local and international fashion scenes.

EVANGELINE Pascual in a turquoise corset and flowing skirt with a hand-beaded butterfly design and a matching hand-painted Ciara wrap

Sandico-Ong recently celebrated her 20th year in the fashion industry with a fashion event at Earthaven, San Mateo, Rizal, for the benefit of the Catanduanes Zero-Waste Fiber Board Housing Project, where the waste material of the abaca weave is recycled into low-cost construction material which can build a house for only P20,000.

This, of course, involves a "bayanihan" mentality, where the local community would help each other build homes. The material is said to be sturdy enough to withstand typhoons, termites and fire, thus giving better homes to the Catanduanes people.

Guests enjoyed flowing lemon grass tea, vegetarian food and a fashion show that featured both professional and guest models, including Evangeline Pascual, Ito Lopa, Julie Ann Ramos, Linda Romualdez and Carlos Concepcion.

Several artists collaborated for this event: the Bitaw-Act Now Studios dancers and stilt-walkers; Bayang Barrios who opened the show with a tribal chant; Kublai, a flutist from Davao; Waway, a percussionist; and Ross, a dancer.

Sandico-Ong's daughter Mirei contributed an animated graphic presentation of her mom's clothes.

The fashion event showcased Sandico-Ong's latest collection for summer, cocktail parties and weddings. All clothes were made with her signature weaves, the abel Iloko, the mangyan weaves and, of course, the banana-abaca fiber, which were made into bustiers, wrap skirts and accented patchwork for both men and women.

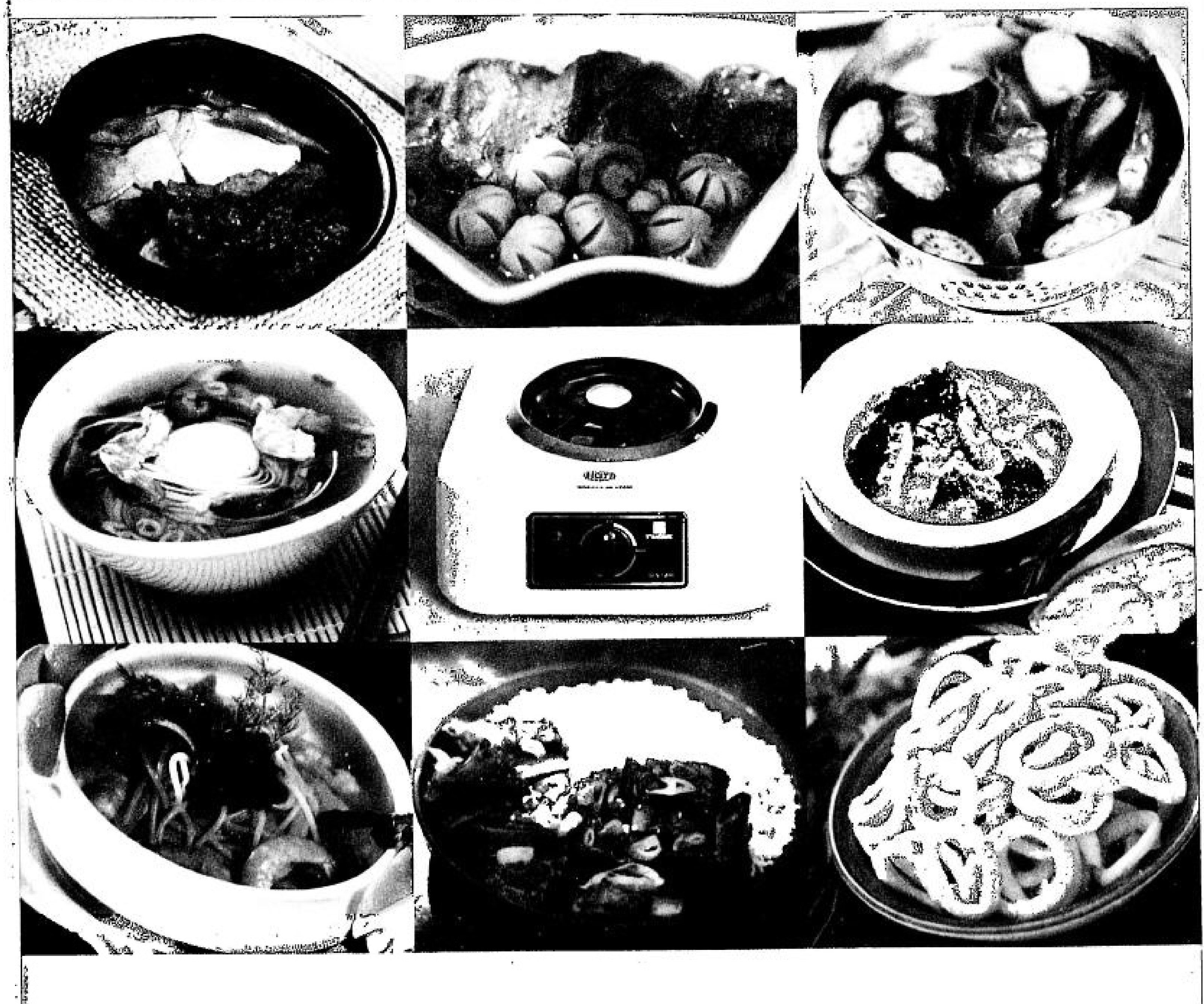
Some of the collection's surprises were the striped banana-abaca *paru-paro* wrap and the crumpled banana-abaca wrap, which came in all sorts of colors.

VIPs who attended the event included Chile Ambassador Jorge Montero and wife Johana Montero, South Africa Ambassador Eugene Grobler and wife Jireh Grobler, Japan Ambassador Ryuchiro Yamazaki and wife Noriko Yamazaki, Odette Alcantara, Raquel Garcia, Marisa Romero, Loleng Panlilio, Alona Lopez and Cita Roman.

The event was directed and choreographed by Raymond Villanueva with the help of Tanya Lim Llana and Twinkle Ferraren. Art direction was by Antonio Santos.

The latest collection of Dita Sandico-Ong may be viewed at her shop at 35 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower. To learn more about the Catanduanes Zero-Waste Fiber Board Housing Project and Earthaven, call The Earthlite Foundation at 7267260 or 7265102, or visit www.ditasandicoong.com/diwata.

ON DIANE, white linen pants with matching banana fiber jacket



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inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEHIND-THE-SCENE beadwork AFP

Yamamoto
retrospective at Paris museum

PARIS—Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto. is the subject of a major four-month exhibit at the French capital's fashion and textile museum.

Recently, he gave the Paris fashion crowd a carefully crafted lesson in volume and structure with his poetic collection for autumn-winter 2005-2006.

Working mainly with his trademark black, Yamamoto used plain wardrobe basics as the starting point for his musings on volume, trussing up the back of a long coat with clusters of bows or accentuating shoulders with a three-ply collar.

The Japanese designer showed layered skirts over full-cut cuffed trousers cropped at the ankle to add bulk.

He then pared down the silhouette by offering long ultra-feminine column skirts that showed lots of leg with trim jackets.

Flashes of fuchsia and red appeared at the start of the show, but

YAMAMOTO/ F2

COAT with larger-than-life collar REUTERS

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino:
A Romantic Interlude

The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

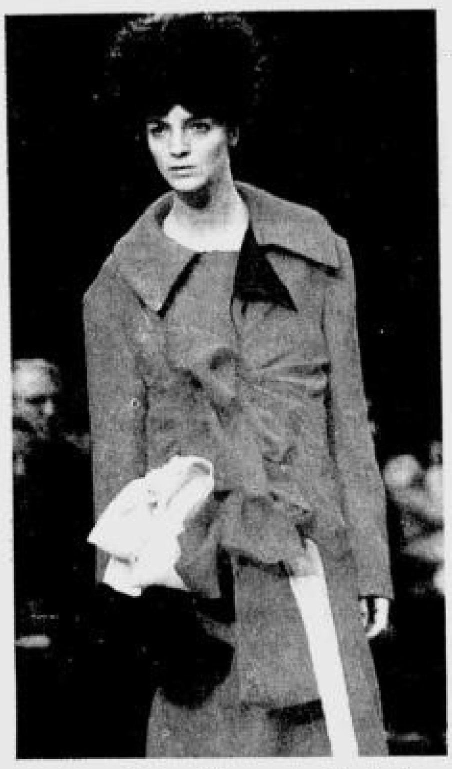
Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

SKIRT with tulle petticoat AP

LEGGINGS are back. AP

RED to chase those fall blues away REUTERS

TAILORED look with gossamer layers AP


BLACK and baby pink accents to break the fuchsia monotony REUTERS

Yamamoto retrospective at Paris museum

From page F1

mid-collection, he traded in his cherished black for psychedelic prints in both bold and pastel hues, using just a thin veil of black fabric to tame them.

Yamamoto ended the show—set to a driving rock soundtrack that included Alice Cooper's anthem "School's Out"—with a series of frock coats embellished with crystals and silver embroidery, fit for his female rock stars.

Germany's Bernhard Willhelm offered a circus of a catwalk show at the Bercy stadium, sending his wackily-coiffed models—complete with leopard-spotted face paint—back and forth in a star formation across a giant circle.

From long tunics printed with a clock motif to high-waisted gold lame capri trousers to a wispy white and black dress with a Greek key pattern, Willhelm's eccentric and eclectic collection offered a bit of everything.

He capped the madcap display with 20 barefoot men and women clad in black sweaters, leggings and leopard masks, who bounded into the circle atop giant red bouncy balls, whooping and screaming. Anything goes at Paris fashion week. *AFP*

Stella may yet get her groove back

FASHION retailer Hennes & Mauritz said on Wednesday that British designer Stella McCartney would produce a women's collection for its stores in the autumn.

The collaboration with McCartney, the daughter of ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, follows on from H&M's successful men's collection designed by fashion guru Karl Lagerfeld last year and a deal with Italian designer Elio Fiorucci for a summer 2005 clothing line.

McCartney, who launched her own label in cooperation with the Gucci Group in 2001, will design around 40 items for women to be sold in selected stores across North America and Europe from November.

Lagerfeld's collection flew off the shelves, helping H&M, which focuses on affordable fashion, boost sales by 24 percent last November. *REUTERS*

HILLARY Duff in a Stella McCartney outfit

PRINCE Charles with fashion designer Stella McCartney during the "Fashion Rocks" concert and fashion show at the Royal Albert Hall in London AFP

Fashion for a more colorful world

FURLA, the renowned Italian luxury leather goods brand, joined hands last month with UNICEF for a fund-raising campaign dubbed "Color the World with Love and Care." The charity program for children was launched at the Garden Court, Pacific Place, Hong Kong.

The campaign concept drew inspiration from the butterfly print carried by the "Divide It" bag and small leather accessories line of the current Furla Spring/Summer collection. The "Divide It" line is marked by bright flowers and dancing butterfly prints that capture a lively scene resembling a children's playground.

Funds will be raised through sales generated from Furla's Spring-Summer 2005 'Butterfly' print products as well as greeting cards designed by children and some of Hong Kong's prominent ladies.

The campaign received keen support from some of Hong Kong's female personalities who were each asked to illustrate their personal vision of a children's colorful world. Together with a selection of drawings to be collected from several children throughout the campaign, these illustrations will be printed into commemorative greeting cards that will be sold at Furla boutiques starting this month.

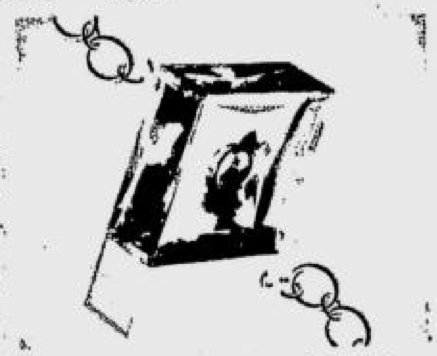
Prominent figures who lent their support included: Christie Wu, director for Philip Stein Teslar Asia-Pacific; Eileen Cha, one of Hong Kong's most famous DJs/actresses; supermodels Janet Ma and Eunis Chan; Jane Louey, wife to prominent businessman James Louey of the Kowloon Motor Bus Company Limited; fashion designer Ranee K; and actresses Mariane Chan and Flora Chan.

The charity launch also marked the re-opening of Furla's newly renovated boutique in Pacific Place. It is the 72nd boutique in the world to utilize Furla's new boutique design concept. Using transparency, color and light as key elements, the new concept favors luminosity and lightness, leaving behind the tradition of furniture as a "solid" support.

There are 184 Furla boutiques and over 100 corners throughout the world. In the Philippines, Furla stores are located at Glorietta, Ayala and Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

CHRISTY Wu

MARIANE and Eunis Chan



Lightness of femininity

Paco Rabanne Pour Elle Eau de Toilette bears the qualities of the original eau de parfum but with a lighter energy. The fragrance is floral, sunny and fruity. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation in leading department stores nationwide.

Essence of masculinity

Paco Rabanne Pour Homme now comes in a bigger XXL size and new dual format—Splash and Spray. As the label implies, there are two ways to use it. Splash is for the sheer pleasure of slapping it on the jaw, torso, nape and shoulders. Spray works any time of the day. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation in leading department stores nationwide.

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IN THIS ISSUE:
MAY 2005

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MANDY SANTOS ON THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD

FUTURE PERFECT PHILIPPINE FABRICS GO GLOBAL

MOMMIE DEAREST CELEBRATING MOTHERS DAY

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THIS MAY 21, TAKE A WALK ON THE CHILD'S SIDE

Everyone is aware about the sad state of education in the Philippines – the lack of schoolbooks, the quality of teaching, the worn-down classrooms that leak when it rains, the lack of running water in school bathrooms.

But is there something we can do about it? Are you feeling the frustration that comes from just hearing complaints, without any action?

Now, in just one afternoon, you can do something about it. Bring your family and friends and show them what it means to walk the walk, rather than just being content to talk the talk. Here's a really simple but strong statement that you can make for the future of Filipino children.

STEP 1: To register as a walker, fill out the form and fax to **849-6966.** You can also call 849-6900 for details about registration. You can choose to walk 2.5 kilometers (an easy 30-minute walk), 5 kilometers (around an hour's walk), and 7.5 kilometers (around an hour and a half).

STEP 2: Get as many people as you can to understand why you decided to walk, and get them to donate to UNICEF because of your walk. They can choose to donate P250, P500, or P750 just for you to walk. They can choose to donate any amount, regardless of the distance you walk.

For instance, if you chose to walk 2.5km, you can get 4 individuals to donate P250 each and you then get to raise P1,000 to help children. Or you can ask these individuals to donate P500 each, even though you are just choosing to walk 2.5km, and you get to raise P2,000. You can even get different individuals to donate different amounts for your walk. They can pay by cash, check, or credit card.

STEP 3: Bring friends and family to **Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio on May 21, 2005, 4:00pm**, and show them what it means to act on behalf of Filipino children. You can choose to have them walk with you, or just let them wait and watch as you take a leisurely stroll – and take a step in the right direction for the children in the Philippines.

unicef In partnership with Heritage Park and the City Government of Taguig

Please cut here.

WALKATHON REGISTRATION FORM

Please fax to 849-6966. For inquiries, please call 849-6900.

IMPORTANT: If you have more than 4 individuals who would like to donate to UNICEF due to your participation in this event, kindly photocopy this form and submit along with the original.

WALKATHON PDI 05 13-05

WALKER'S INFORMATION
Name: Last First Middle
Company:
Address: No. Street Town/Municipality
City/Province Zip Code

Daytime tel. no.:
Cell phone no.:
E-mail address:
Birthday: mm dd yy Signature:

By signing on this form, I certify that I am fit to participate in this event, and I will not hold UNICEF and the companies/individuals behind this event liable for any sickness or injury that may arise out of my participation in this event. I likewise certify that the individuals whose signatures appear below are donating the amounts indicated to UNICEF.

To raise money to help build child-friendly schools in the Philippines, I will walk:
☐ 2.5km (around 30 minutes leisurely walk)
☐ 5.0km (around 1 hour leisurely walk)
☐ 7.5km (around 1 1/2 hours leisurely walk)

WALKATHON
Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio
May 21, 2005
4pm

Because I have volunteered to walk, the following individuals will donate the amounts indicated below to UNICEF (Please check amounts & payment method. For credit card donations, the credit card holder must sign on this sheet so as to authorize the payment of the donated amount to UNICEF. All donors will be issued receipts from UNICEF. Please send check and cash donations before May 21, 2005. For check pick-up, please call 849-6900.)

Name/Telephone No.	Amount Donated	Payment	This portion for credit card payments. Please charge my:
Myself	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: Expiry date: Signature:
1)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: Expiry date: Signature:
2)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: Expiry date: Signature:
3)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: Expiry date: Signature:
4)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: Expiry date: Signature:

Bag of choice of 'Miss Congeniality' and 'Desperate Housewives'

HOLLYWOOD actress Sandra Bullock was spotted toting around a bag from Tod's, her luxe accessory atelier of choice and one of Italy's premiere high fashion leather workers.

Known for its divinely de rigueur shoes and bags, Tod's occupies a position at the high end of the accessory scale, crafting beautiful items in only the finest, most luxurious materials.

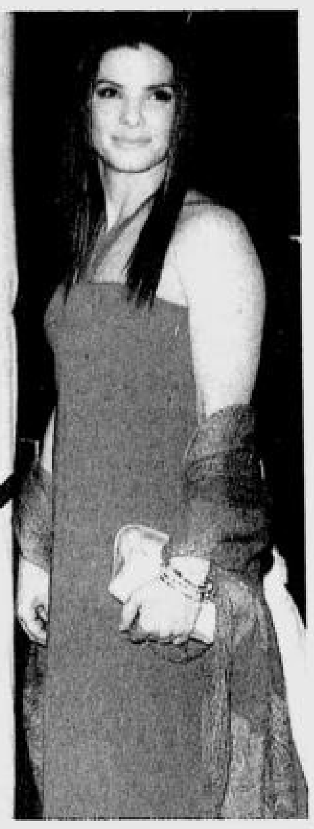
Sandra was recently spotted carrying Tod's latest masterpiece to the premiere of "Miss Congeniality 2," the sequel to her 2000 hit.

The little golden darling tucked under her arm is the Venghé Pochette, a bag that literally dazzles in its beauty. Made of gold karung reptile leather, it radiates a subtle metallic sheen, lushly advertising its bold carrier's scintillating personal qualities.

It features a vertical flap closure with a polished gold metal clasp, and may be carried by hand or worn with its matching karung wrist strap. Magnets are cleverly hidden in the flap, allowing for utmost ease in accessing one's compact for the occasional mandatory touch up.

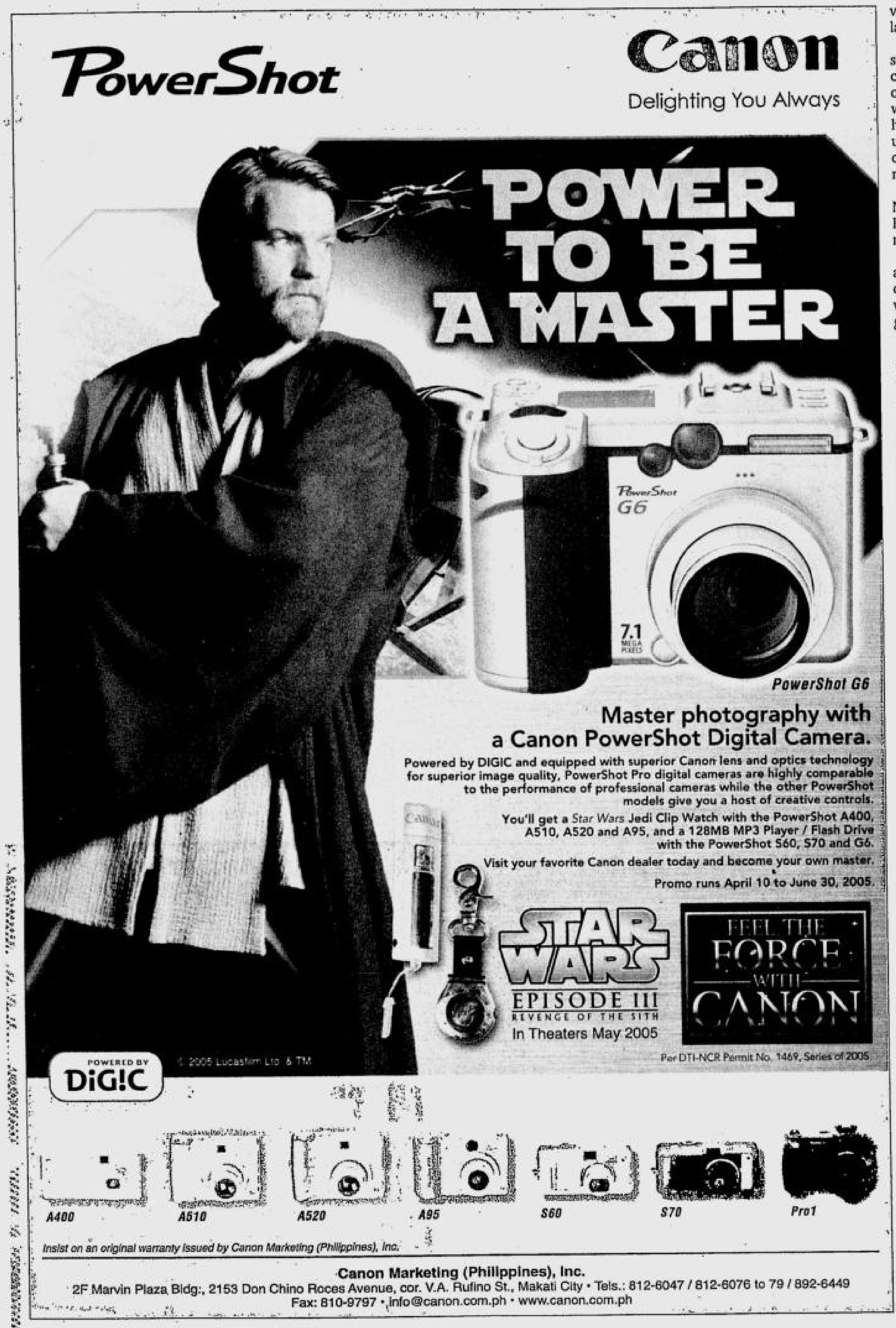
Meanwhile, Marcia Cross and Nicolette Sheridan of "Desperate Housewives" were also seen carrying Tod's new D bag.

The D bag is dainty yet serviceable. It is made of suede and comes in a classic ladylike shape with rolled leather handles and gold metal drawstring ends.



SANDRA Bullock with the Tod's Venghé Pochette in gold leather and Plateaus in gold karung

(clockwise from top) NICOLETTE Sheridan with Tod's New D-Bag; Marcia Cross with Tod's D-Bag Grande in cream, and Tod's D-Bag Mini in orange suede



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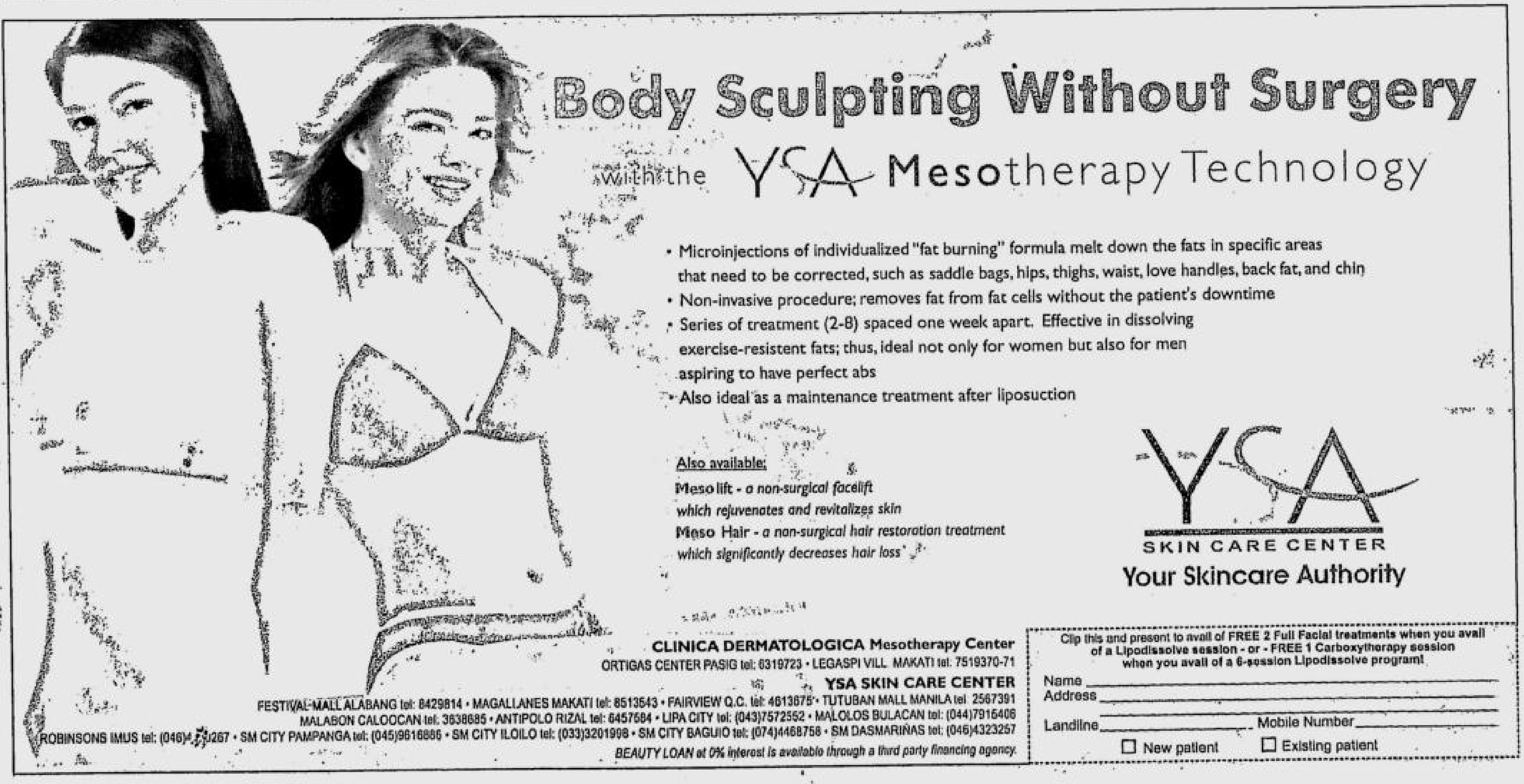

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LIFESTYLE

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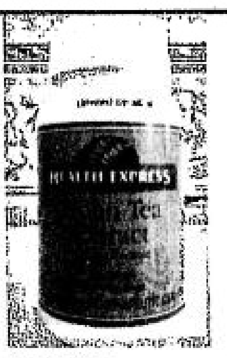
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The score on weight-loss supplements

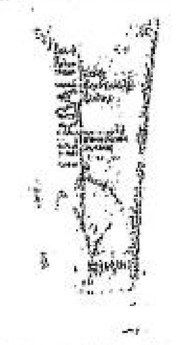
Please consult your doctor before drinking any of the supplements I feature today, to make sure you use them properly and get the right results

Rapid
Thermal
Night Time Formula

RAPID Thermal Night Time formula



HEALTH Express Green Tea Extract



HERBALIFE Body Conditioning Creme

ALTHOUGH always of great interest, weight loss supplements are a very touchy topic. I urge the readers of this article to please consult your doctor before drinking any of the supplements I feature today.

In my case, a visit to an endocrinologist made me aware that it wasn't for lack of anything I was doing. I exercised a lot and controlled my intake but was still gaining weight uncontrollably because of a thyroid problem. Maintenance medicine helped me lose the extra 25 pounds I was lugging around. I still fluctuate every so often but I am glad that upon tracing the problem I am able to keep things under control. See how important seeing a doctor is?

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

This article was born when I visited my supplement store Health Express (HE) to refill my anti-aging supplements and asked them what their consistent best seller was. Their top four is Hydroxycut, Glutathione, Green tea tablets and Xenadrine NRG. Three out of four are for weight loss purposes and they have new ones I predict will be the new bestsellers.

HE Green Tea Extract tablets (P800/100 capsules)—In true HE tradition, they picked

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Piandré San Juan	709 J. Abad Santos cor. Calderon Sts. Little Baguio	726-1084 / 727-2196
Piandré Libis	Unit 105 Intrepid Plaza, E. Rodriguez Ave. Q.C.	437-7021 / 437-7028 437-7058 / 0917-531-1245

See posters for complete details. Per DTI-NCR permit #2587, series of 2005.

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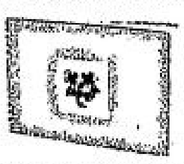
Finishing Ideas

Amusing on a gardening bag



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a total health drink mixed with 12 Chinese Medicinal Herbs known for preventing:
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a bitter blend formulated to help cure and prevent Rheumatism and its symptoms:
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- improves motor functions of the hands & feet
- relieves limb and tendon spasms

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風濕病

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- strengthens the immune system
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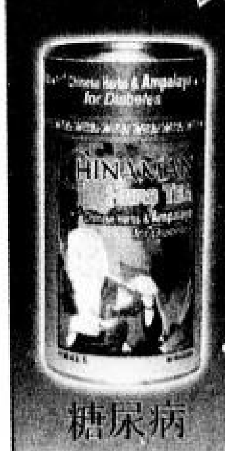
- strengthens weak kidney, liver and urinary bladder



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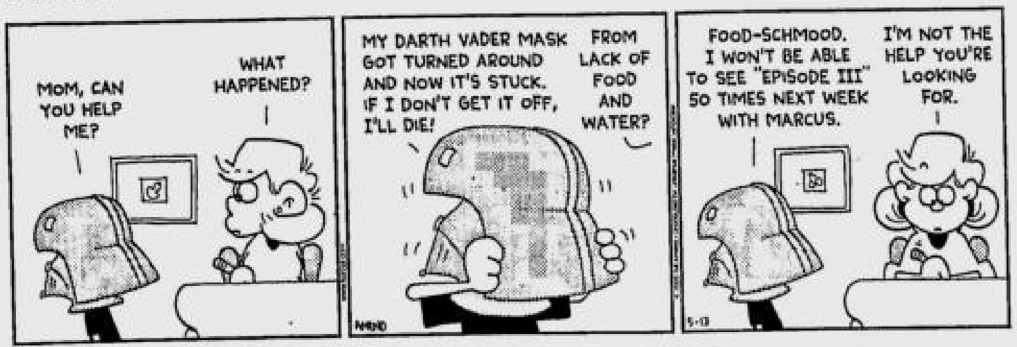
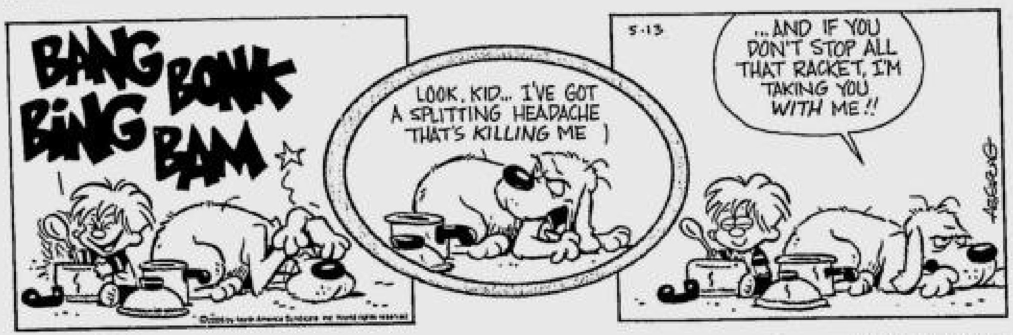
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM, CAN YOU HELP ME?
WHAT HAPPENED?
MY DARTH VADER MASK GOT TURNED AROUND AND NOW IT'S STUCK. IF I DON'T GET IT OFF, I'LL DIE!
FROM LACK OF FOOD AND WATER?
FOOD-SCHMOOD. I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE "EPISODE III" 50 TIMES NEXT WEEK WITH MARCUS.
I'M NOT THE HELP YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
5-13

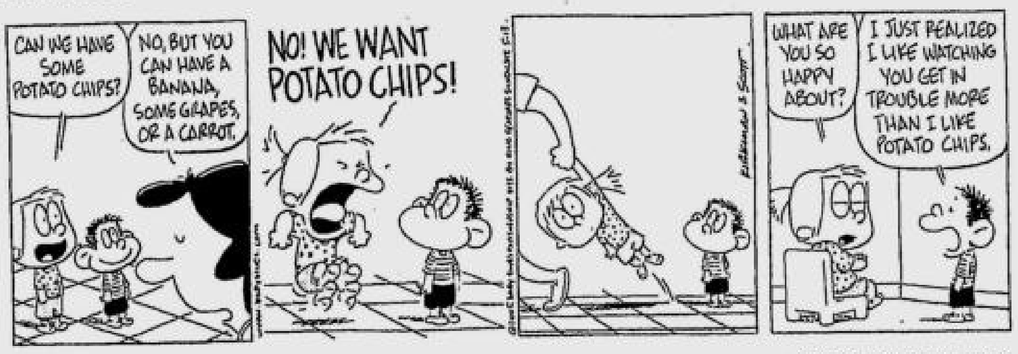
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BANG BONK BING BAM
LOOK, KID... I'VE GOT A SPLITTING HEADACHE THAT'S KILLING ME
5-13
...AND IF YOU DON'T STOP ALL THAT RACKET, I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME!!

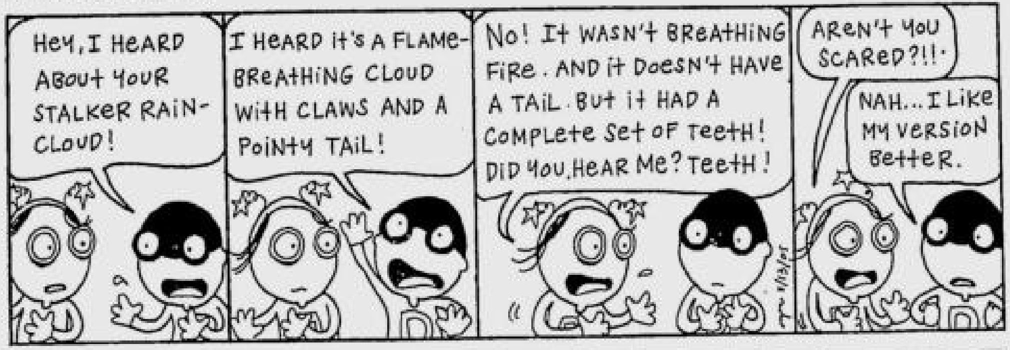
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN WE HAVE SOME POTATO CHIPS?
NO, BUT YOU CAN HAVE A BANANA, SOME GRAPES, OR A CARROT.
NO! WE WANT POTATO CHIPS!
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
I JUST REALIZED I LIKE WATCHING YOU GET IN TROUBLE MORE THAN I LIKE POTATO CHIPS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR STALKER RAIN-CLOUD!
I HEARD IT'S A FLAME-BREATHING CLOUD WITH CLAWS AND A POINTY TAIL!
NO! IT WASN'T BREATHING FIRE. AND IT DOESN'T HAVE A TAIL. BUT IT HAD A COMPLETE SET OF TEETH! DID YOU HEAR ME? TEETH!
AREN'T YOU SCARED?!!
NAH... I LIKE MY VERSION BETTER.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're playful. Often, it seems like you're enjoying your own private joke. You're natural, comfortable and have great popular appeal. Whether you intend to or not, you influence others. You like to be on the move. Many of you master a particular technique. You will have more time alone this year because you have to learn something.
Birthdate of Stevie Wonder, musician; Samantha Morton, actress; Harvey Keitel, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day to consider long-term investments. If you do spend money, you will likely buy something that will be very practical and will last a long time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day for getting a lot of things done. Your mind is logical, orderly and relatively well-disciplined. (You're going to put the horse before the cart.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This can be a productive day in dealing with large institutions and the government. You want to do something that makes you feel more secure about your future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day to seek advice from someone wiser, older or more experienced than you. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Stand on the shoulders of those who went before you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Now is the time to sit down and make some serious plans for your long-term future. Your thinking is straight-arrow and very levelheaded.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might meet a guru, father figure or some kind of mentor today. You're in the mood to hear some serious wisdom, either through the media or through some kind of higher education or teacher.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Patience pays off eventually. Others might bail you out of a tough situation. Someone older can help you now. You're making serious plans for dividing something.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Sensible discussions with partners go very well today. You're ready to put your comforts second and your duties first.

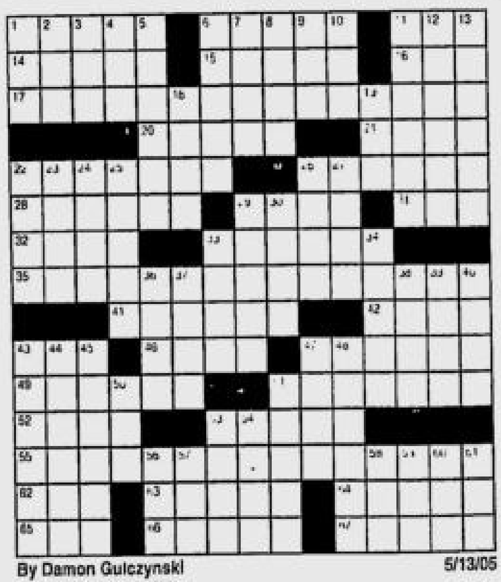
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day for hard work. You won't mind routine. You just want to get the job done in the shortest, most efficient way possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're willing to accept increased responsibilities regarding children. You feel very serious about this; you also feel very sincere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Now is the time to make long-range plans for your domestic situation. Figure out where you want and how you want to live, and who you want to live with.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's best to work today. Your mind is drawn to serious matters. You either have important discussions with others, or you want to plod along on something that you want to get done.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Damon Gulczynski
University Place, WA
5/13/05

ACROSS
1 Tugs behind
6 Lingo
11 St. with keys
14 Songstress McLachlan
15 Renter's contract
16 Dressing ingredient
17 1954 crime thriller
20 Nickel add-on?
21 Muffin spread
22 More suspect
26 Seem
28 __ Beach, CA
29 Rizzuto or Donahue
31 Doctor of music?
32 List unit
33 Made confidential
35 1976 sports comedy
41 Tear-jerkers?
42 Morose
43 Bub
46 Captures
47 __ longue
49 Imaginary
51 Gave a little less to
52 Collar fastener
53 Sacred item
55 1931 animated classic
62 Risked sum
63 Broadcast again
64 Macabre
65 Emma's twins?
66 Talks wildly
67 Distributed the hands

DOWN
1 Hrs. of summer
2 Fan's belt?
3 Exist
4 Comedic jest
5 Certain winner
6 Pile wood
7 Make over
8 Amplifier adjustment
9 Sugar: suff.
10 "The Daughter of Time" author
11 Polluted
12 Elongated
13 Clinton's VP
18 Concert halls
19 Alley of the comics
22 Narrow opening
23 "Music __ charms..."
24 Writer from Knoxville
25 1941 Disney movie
26 Feels ill
27 Commoner
29 Hammer parts
30 Trips over speech
33 Snooty one
34 Forbid
36 Karenina or Christie
37 Use a rotary phone
38 Deplaned
39 Sly plan
40 Parakeet staple
43 Surely is
44 Hymn of loyalty
45 Vinegar-and-oil bottles
47 Fashionable
48 Pawned
50 Academic URL ending
51 Insults
53 Seven no-hitters pitcher
54 Splice film
56 Fido's warning
57 Pasture in poetry
58 Singer Peggy
59 Nest-egg letters
60 Soccer zero
61 Comprehend

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	D	A	■	S	E	C	T	S	■	D	A	N	K
N	E	A	T	■	O	L	L	I	E	■	O	B	O	E
T	A	U	T	■	F	O	U	N	D	■	D	O	R	Y
I	N	B	A	I	T	I	N	G	A	M	O	U	S	E
■	■	■	I	R	S	■	G	E	T	A	■	T	E	D
T	H	I	N	K	E	R	■	■	E	H	S	■	■	■
O	A	R	■	■	L	O	L	L	■	A	H	E	A	D
T	R	A	P	A	L	W	A	Y	S	L	E	A	V	E
S	T	E	E	L	■	S	O	L	E	■	■	R	I	B
■	■	■	P	O	L	■	■	E	R	R	A	N	D	S
A	P	R	■	O	O	P	S	■	P	A	R	■	■	■
R	O	O	M	F	O	R	T	H	E	M	O	U	S	E
E	S	A	I	■	K	O	R	A	N	■	U	R	A	L
T	E	R	M	■	E	V	E	R	T	■	S	I	C	K
E	R	S	E	■	H	O	P	E	S	■	E	S	S	E

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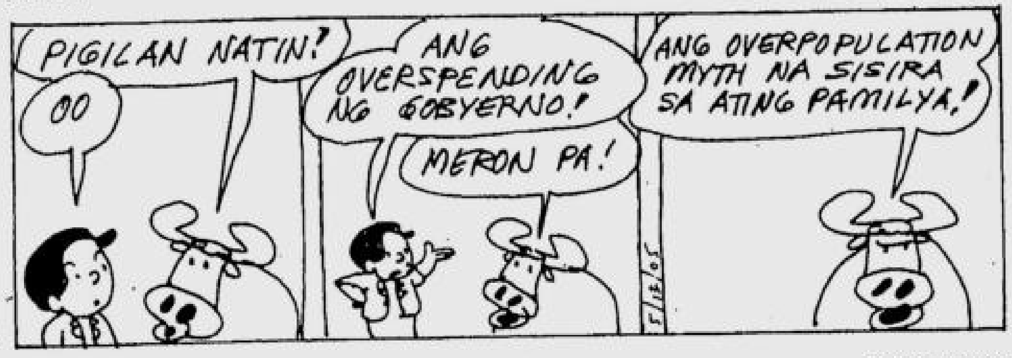
5/13/05

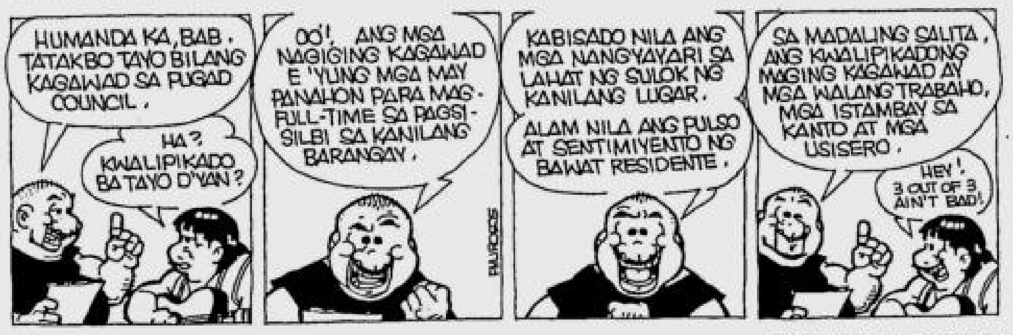
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PIGILAN NATIN!
OO
ANG OVERSPENDING NG GOBYERNO!
MERON PA!
5.13.05
ANG OVERPOPULATION MYTH NA SISIRA SA ATING PAMILYA!

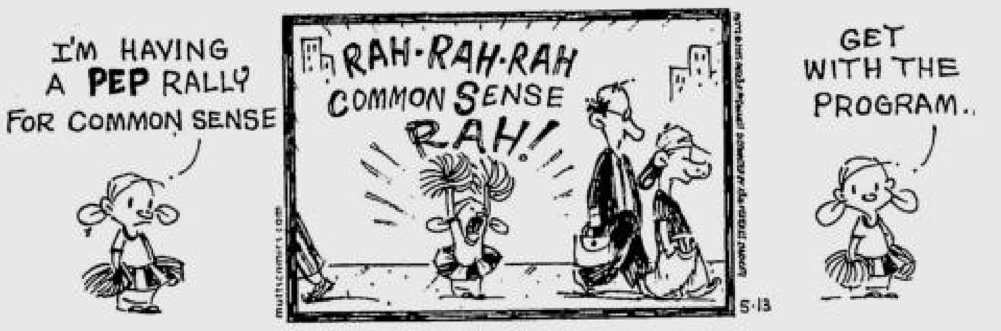
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HUMANDA KA, BAB. TATAKBO TAYO BILANG KAGAWAD SA PUGAD COUNCIL.
HA? KWALIPIKADO BA TAYO D'YAN?
OO! ANG MGA NAGIGING KAGAWAD E 'YUNG MGA MAY PANAHON PARA MAG-FULL-TIME SA PAGSISILBI SA KANILANG BARANGAY.
KABISADO NILA ANG MGA NANGYAYARI SA LAHAT NG SULOK NG KANILANG LUGAR.
ALAM NILA ANG PULSO AT SENTIMIYENTO NG BAWAT RESIDENTE.
SA MADALING SALITA, ANG KWALIPIKADONG MAGING KAGAWAD AY MGA WALANG TRABAHO, MGA ISTAMBAY SA KANTO AT MGA USISERO.
HEY! 3 OUT OF 3 AIN'T BAD!

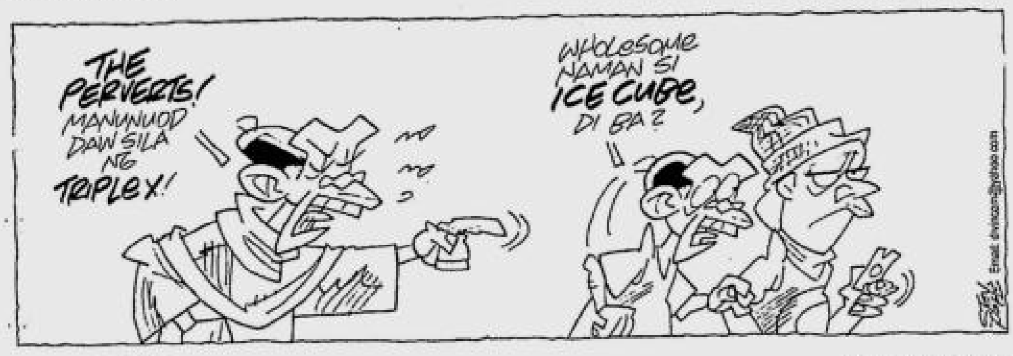
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M HAVING A PEP RALLY FOR COMMON SENSE
RAH-RAH-RAH COMMON SENSE RAH!
muttscomics.com
5-13
GET WITH THE PROGRAM..

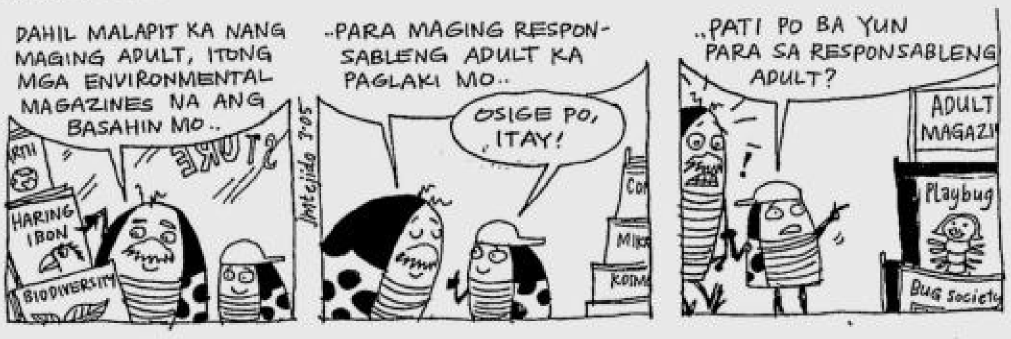
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE PERVERTS! MANUNUOD DAW SILA NG TRIPLEX!
WHOLESOME NAMAN SI ICE CUBE, DI BA?

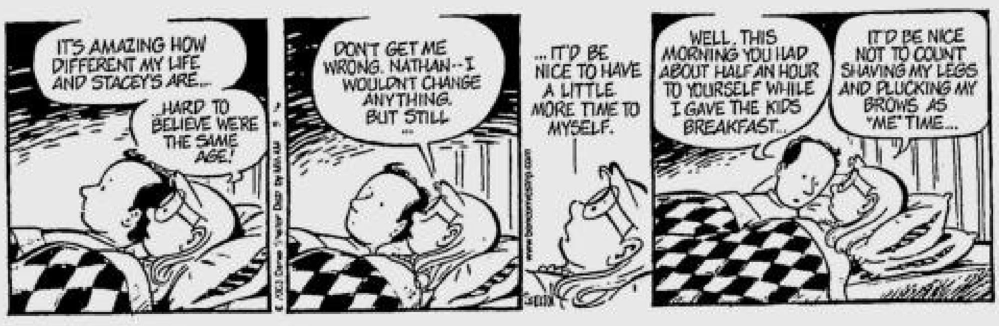
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAHIL MALAPIT KA NANG MAGING ADULT, ITONG MGA ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINES NA ANG BASAHIN MO..
HARING IBON
BIODIVERSITY
..PARA MAGING RESPONSABLENG ADULT KA PAGLAKI MO..
OSIGE PO, ITAY!
..PATI PO BA YUN PARA SA RESPONSABLENG ADULT?
ADULT MAGAZI
Playbug
Bug Society

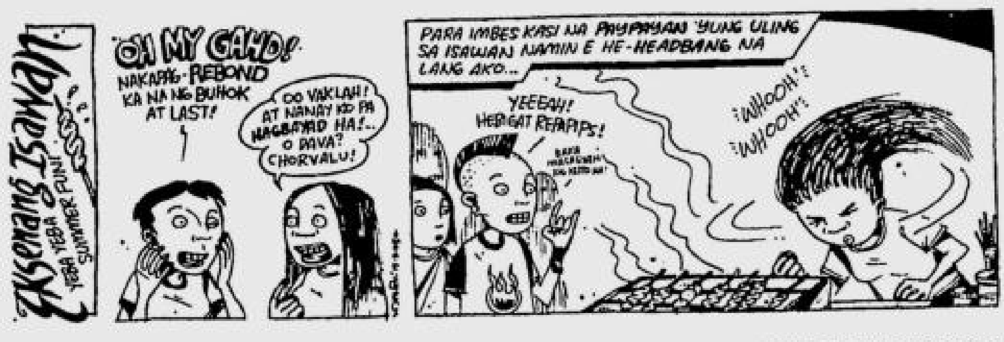
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S AMAZING HOW DIFFERENT MY LIFE AND STACEY'S ARE...
...HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE THE SAME AGE!
DON'T GET ME WRONG, NATHAN--I WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING. BUT STILL ...
...IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO MYSELF.
WELL, THIS MORNING YOU HAD ABOUT HALF AN HOUR TO YOURSELF WHILE I GAVE THE KIDS BREAKFAST...
IT'D BE NICE NOT TO COUNT SHAVING MY LEGS AND PLUCKING MY BROWS AS "ME" TIME...

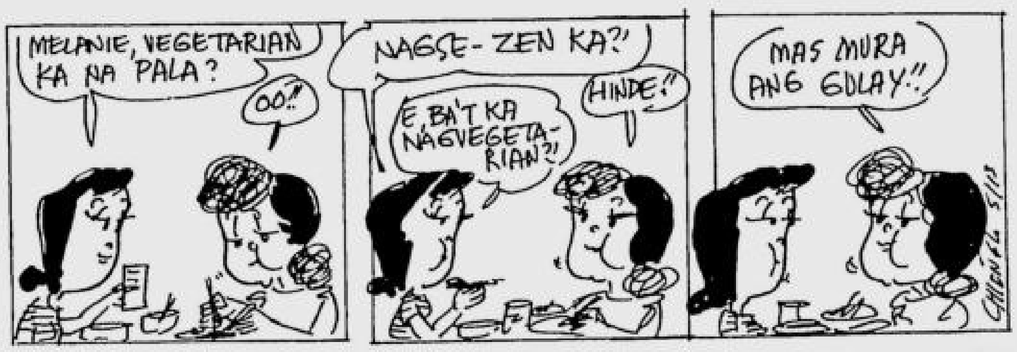
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


YEBA YEBA SUMMER FUN!
OH MY GAHD! NAKAPAG-REBOND KA NA NG BUHOK AT LAST!
OO VAKLAH! AT NANAY KO PA NAGBAYAD HA!.. O DIVA? CHORVALU!
PARA IMBES KASI NA PAYPAYAN 'YUNG ULING SA ISAWAN NAMIN E HE-HEADBANG NA LANG AKO...
YEEEAH! HEBIGAT REPAPIPS!
WHOOH! WHOOH!

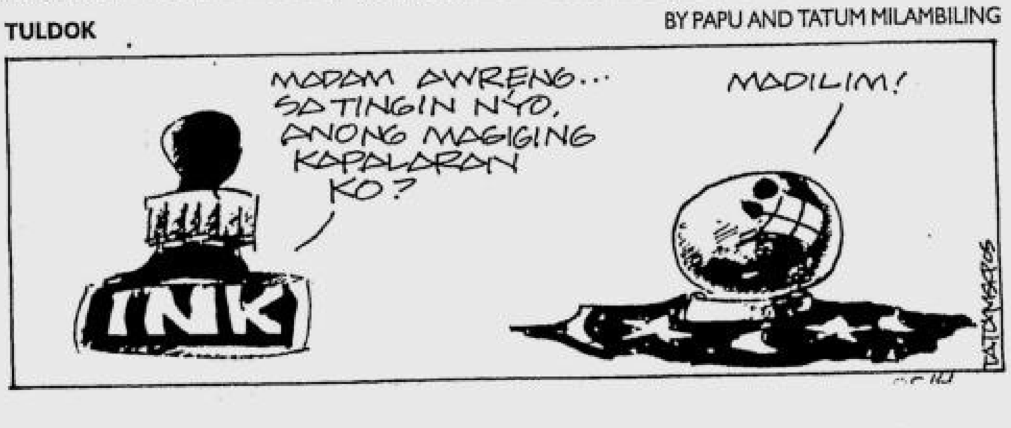
LOVEKNOTS

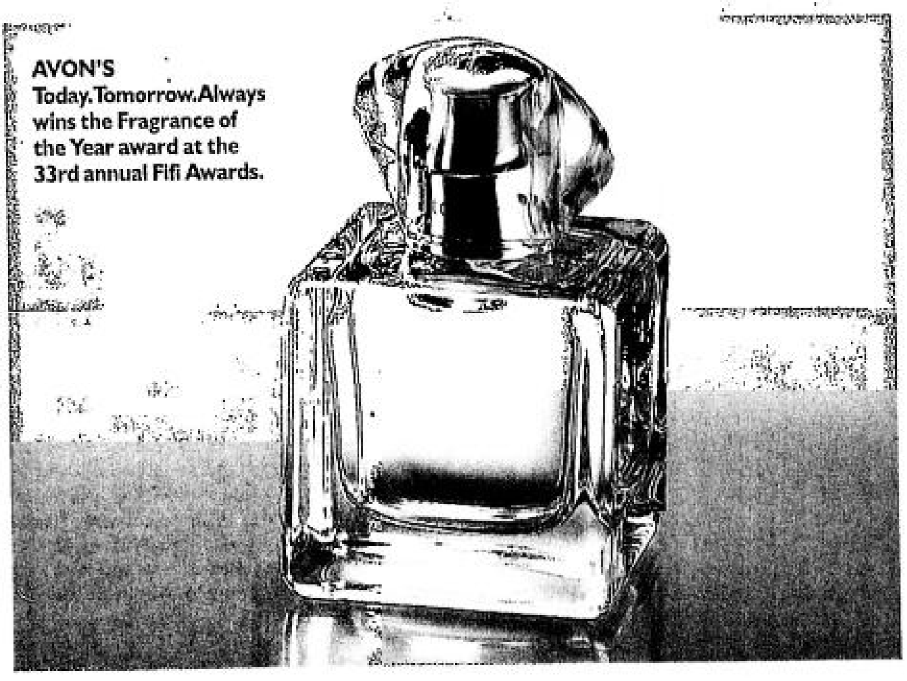
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, VEGETARIAN KA NA PALA?
OO!
NAGSE-ZEN KA?!
HINDE!
E, BA'T KA NAGVEGETARIAN?!
MAS MURA ANG GULAY!!

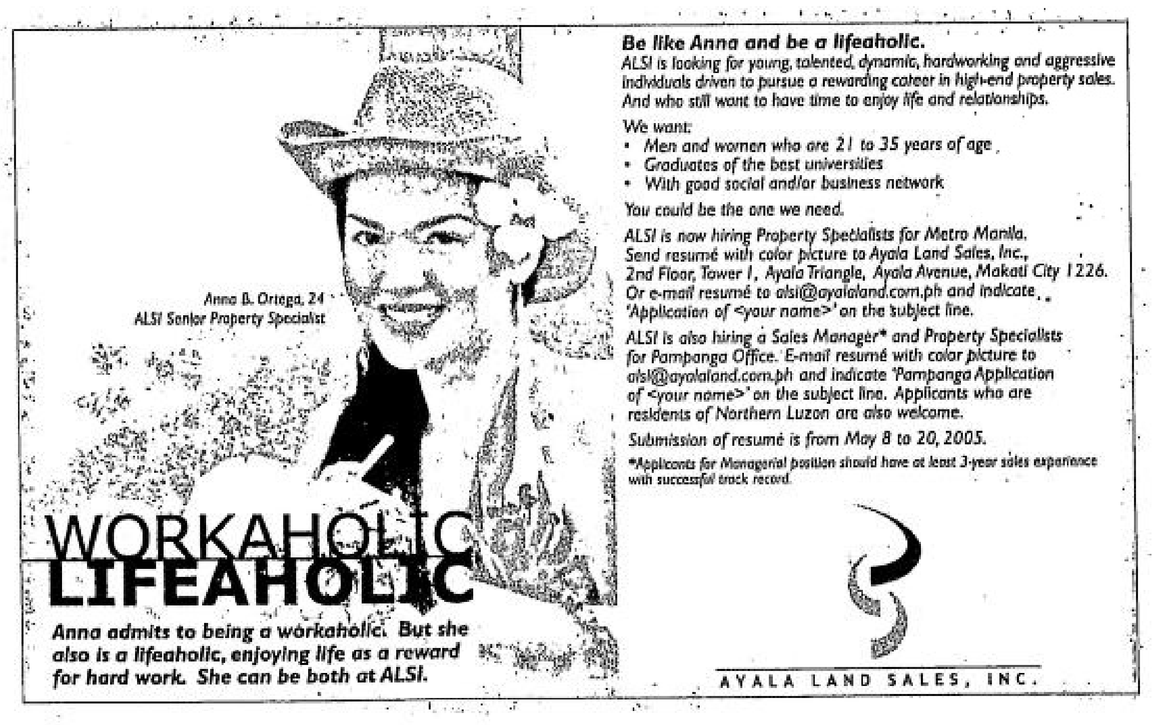
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MADAM AWRENG... SA TINGIN N'YO, ANONG MAGIGING KAPALARAN KO?
MADILIM!
INK



AVON'S Today.Tomorrow.Always wins the Fragrance of the Year award at the 33rd annual Fifi Awards.



Be like Anna and be a lifeaholic.
ALSI is looking for young, talented, dynamic, hardworking and aggressive individuals driven to pursue a rewarding career in high-end property sales. And who still want to have time to enjoy life and relationships.

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- Graduates of the best universities
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ALSI is now hiring Property Specialists for Metro Manila. Send resumé with color picture to Ayala Land Sales, Inc., 2nd Floor, Tower 1, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226. Or e-mail resumé to alsi@ayalaland.com.ph and indicate 'Application of <your name>' on the subject line.

ALSI is also hiring a Sales Manager* and Property Specialists for Pampanga Office. E-mail resumé with color picture to alsi@ayalaland.com.ph and indicate 'Pampanga Application of <your name>' on the subject line. Applicants who are residents of Northern Luzon are also welcome.

Submission of resumé is from May 8 to 20, 2005.

*Applicants for Managerial position should have at least 3-year sales experience with successful track record.

Anna B. Ortega, 24
ALSI Senior Property Specialist

WORKAHOLIC
LIFEAHOLIC

Anna admits to being a workaholic. But she also is a lifeaholic, enjoying life as a reward for hard work. She can be both at ALSI.

AYALA LAND SALES, INC.

Fragrance wins prestigious FiFi award

THE FRAGRANCE Foundation honored Avon's Today. Tomorrow. Always with the Fragrance of the Year Award in the Women's Private Label/Direct Sell Category at the 33rd annual FiFi Awards. The awards were held last April 7 at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City. Jill Scalamandre, senior vice president, Global Beauty Brands, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Today. Tomorrow. Always was named winner over the following finalists: Basic Instinct by Victoria's Secret Beauty, Closer by GAP Body, Dream More by GAP Inc., and Liquid Karl by Karl Lagerfeld for H&M. Avon's I'm Perfect and mark blu were also recognized as top finalists in the Men's Private Label/Direct Sell Category.

The FiFi Awards honors the fragrance industry's creative achievements and are considered the "Oscars" of the fragrance industry. More than 1,000 members of the international fragrance community attended the ceremony, which was hosted by Oscar-winning actress Marisa Tomei and included appearances by Ashanti, Katie Holmes, Monica Potter and Alan Cummings.

This year's awards ceremony also paid tribute to Arie L. Kopelman and Carolina Herrera with the Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Awards.

For more information about the Fragrance Foundation and the FiFi Awards, visit www.fragrance.org

Skin protection experts

THIS SEASON, showing some skin need not be a problem with the help of your friendly skin specialists from Dermcare.

Dermcare offers effective, affordable and easy-to-maintain skin and body pampering treatments such as facials, body scrubs, hair wax, under arm whitening treatments, and even eyelash extension services. Other dermatological services include warts and mole removals, skin peeling, stretch mask and scar removal.

It also offers a complete line of skin products—moisturizers, facial scrubs, sunblock and pimple protection creams. Several Dermcare outlets like Dermcare Edsa Central offer hair treatments such as hair rebonding, hair spa, dandruff control and scalp treatment.

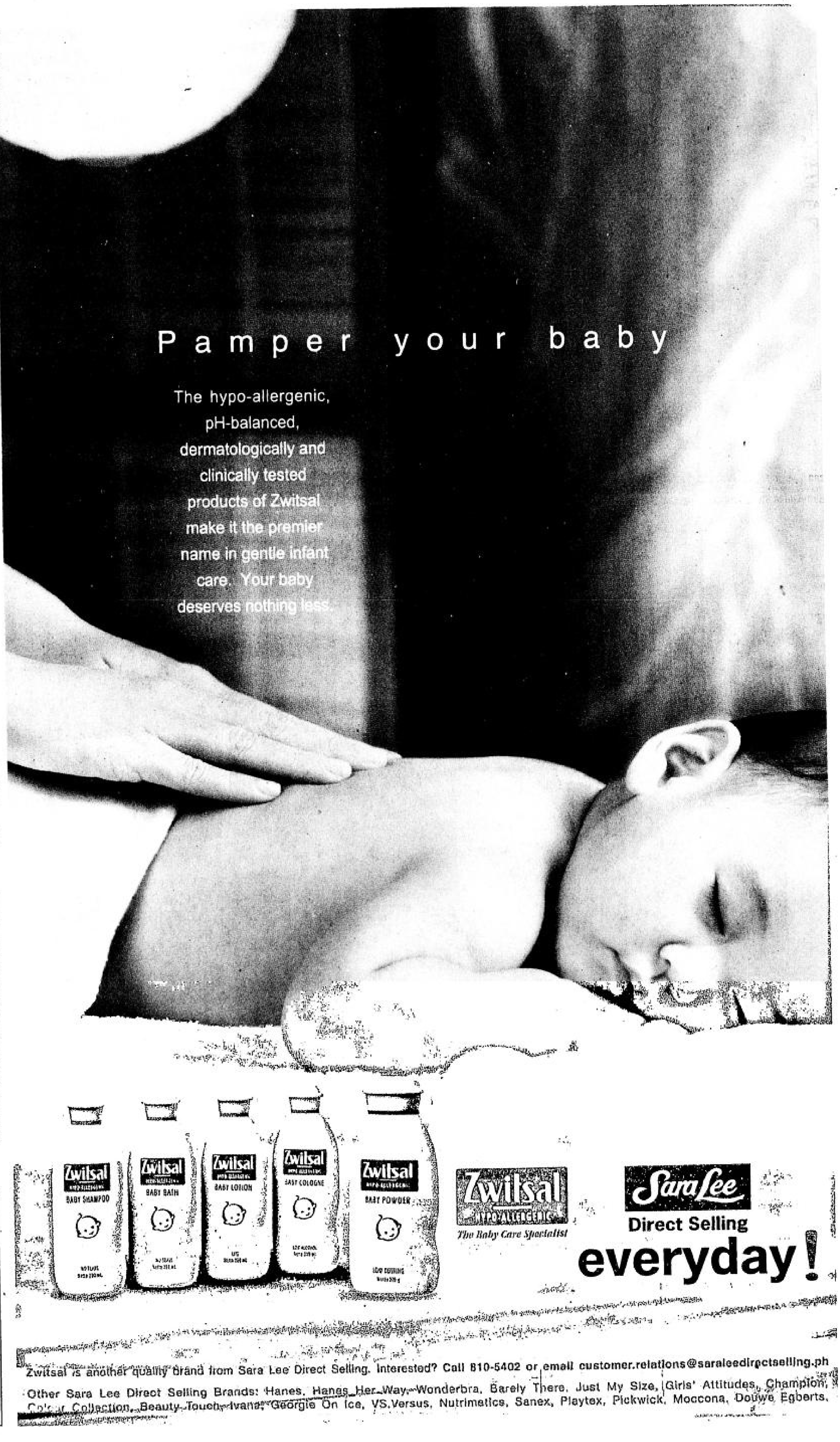
Dermcare recently opened new outlets at Limketkai Mall in Cagayan De Oro City and in the newly renovated Farmers Cubao.

Call 6319764.

DERMCARE offers effective and affordable skin and body pampering treatments.

Scent of the Orient

LANCOME presents Tresor fragrance for women. This floral semi-oriental scent is housed in a multifaceted diamond bottle. Lancome offers Tresor Jewel Edition, a 50-ml EDP spray with a handmade jewel ring decorated with 25 Swarovski diamond-like stones. Available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.



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Dare to bare with new moisturizer

VIBELLE Manufacturing Corporation, licensed manufacturer and distributor of Jergens products in the Philippines, introduces Jergens Soft Shimmer Skin Radiance Moisturizer that promises to showcase the skin's natural beauty and youthful glow.

The moisturizer has a unique blend of emollients and mica, light-reflecting pigments. It effectively softens the skin and brightens any skin tone, blurs uneven textures, fine lines due to aging, and discoloration.

The product provides skin much needed moisture and softness after a hectic day.

Jergens Soft Shimmer Moisturizer may be used anytime, anywhere because its colorless matte finish shines only in the light.

Dab the Soft Shimmer Moisturizer on your shoulders and décolleté when going out in the evening, or use it to highlight your leg's shape to make it look slimmer and sexier.

Massage to the stomach or back when wearing belly-baring tops or backless dresses, and rub on feet and toes when wearing strappy sandals.

Jergens Soft Shimmer Skin Radiance Moisturizer is easy to apply. Smooth it all over your body everyday and gently massage thoroughly to achieve the desired even-toned skin. Wait for a few minutes for the lotion to dry before getting dressed. For a more stunning and sparkling look, use more on arms, legs, shoulders, neck and belly areas.

Jergens skin care products are available in leading supermarkets, department stores, and drugstores nationwide.

Jergens
New! Soft Shimmer
SKIN RADIANCE MOISTURIZER

Paraffin heaven

CLOSE your eyes and imagine how a paraffin treatment will feel on your weary hands and feet. Your extremities are submerged in warm wax, which envelopes them like a silky glove. The wax relaxes your muscles and penetrates your pores, hydrating, leaving your hands and feet supple and velvety. Circulation improves, color is restored, and stiffness from overwork and ailments disappear.

Gloss Designer Nails presents this ultimate summer indulgence—and much more—with its summer promo offer this May. Get a free manicure when you avail of a Paraffin Hands Treatment or Hands Spa, a free pedicure when you avail of a Paraffin Feet Treatment, an Underarm Wax for just P200, and a free pedicure when you avail of a Leg Wax.

Owned by three friends—Lynnie Aruiza, Sandra Adiong and Femmie Gregorio—Gloss Designer Nails keeps track of the latest nail trends, maintains impeccable hygiene inside their store (all equipment is continuously sterilized), and uses only the best imported products.

The shop also offers hot oil treatments for nails, acrylic and sculptured nails, airbrushed nail art, body massage (the salon's technicians are licensed masseuses), and waxing of upper lips and eyebrows.

Gloss Designer Nails, located at 2/L Fashion Village, Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City, is open 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays, 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Call 4219121 to make an appointment.

The score. . .

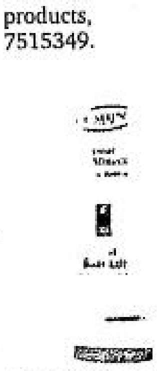
From page G1

their bestseller and negotiated to buy it in discount bulk prices and have the Health Express logo on it. Friends of mine who have lost weight noticeably have given credit to Green Tea tablets. Studies show that drinking green tea increases the number of calories your body burns and increases energy to keep us going for the rest of the day. It is also a great antioxidant and anti-aging supplement. Possible side effects: sleeplessness, nervousness, frequent urination and alarming loss of appetite. Do not take if you have high blood pressure, iron deficiency, diabetes, kidney problems and are pregnant. I was told not to take this after 2 p.m. because of the caffeine content. Dosage is two tablets before each meal twice a day. Do not take before dinner unless you work the night shift and could use the energy. You may also try: Herbalife's green and beige tablet combination for Thermogenesis. The green tablets are green tea and the beige tablets are designed to work in conjunction with the green for maximum energy and weight loss.

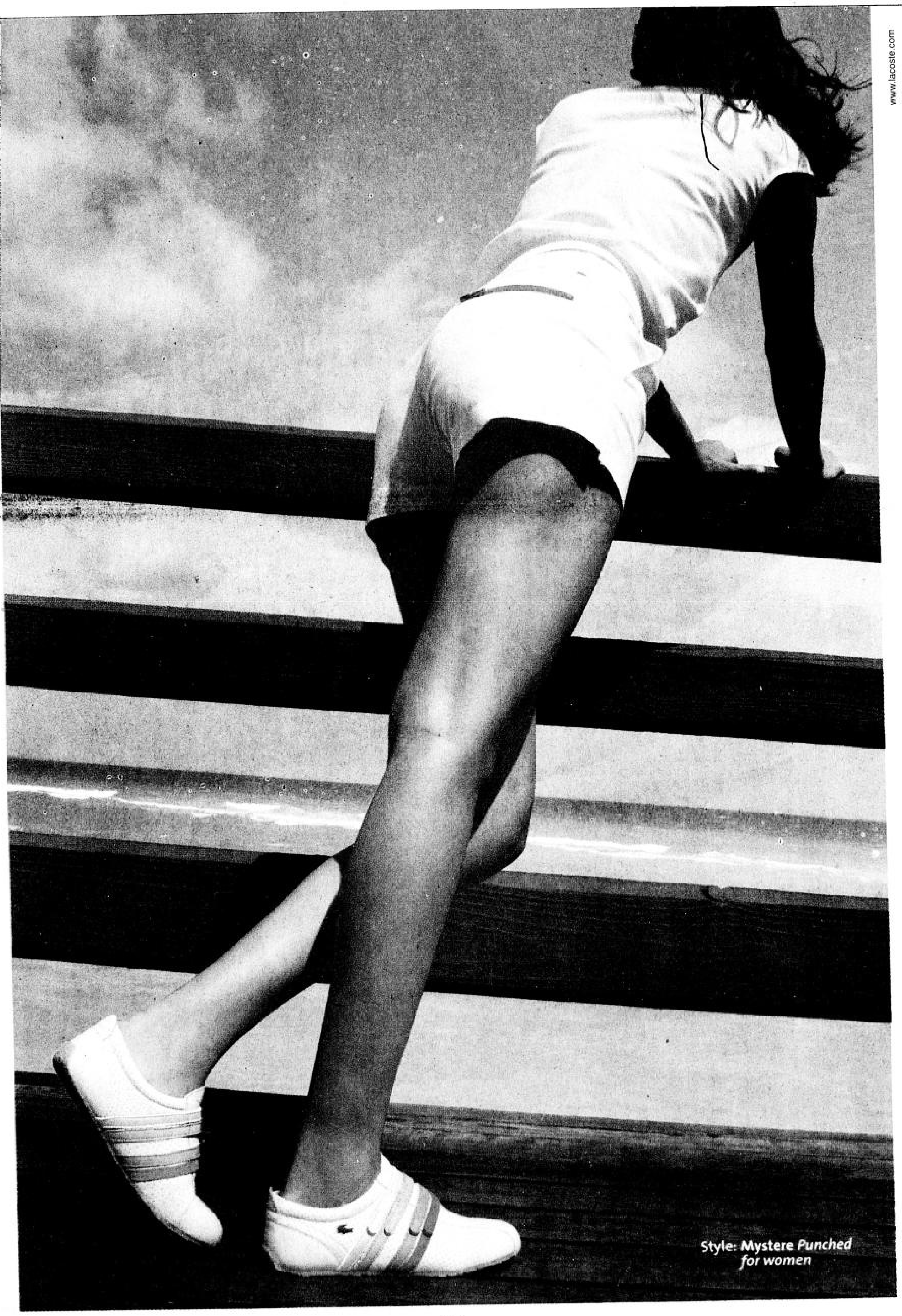
Rapid Thermal Night Time formula EF: PM (P2,980/90 tablets)—This I was encouraged to take due to my hypothyroidism because the Guggulsterones and L-Tyrosine stimulate a sluggish thyroid gland enabling it to burn fat more efficiently. Designed to promote fat loss in the evening and while you sleep. Being a chronic nighttime muncher, I noticed my hunger pangs and specifically carbohydrate cravings were no longer there or at least very easy to resist. One thing I should warn you about: Make sure you are home and near your bed when you take the supplement because you get drowsy and it is an accident waiting to happen when you have to drive home or out socializing. Prepare to wake up after six to eight hours because the Glucomanan is a dietary fiber that will make you use the bathroom. This is caused by the 5 HTP (5-hydroxytrytophan) and Valerian Root natural mild sedatives. To cut it short its benefits are: lose fat, increase metabolism 24 hours a day, reduce late-night cravings for carbohydrates and sweets, and mild sleep aids to help you get the rest you need.

Streamlining: Losing weight may improve cellulite but it sure won't make it disappear. Herbalife has a good Body contouring Cream for firming the skin and minimizing cellulite, Clarins has also come up with an improved version of their already wonderful Lift Minceur called Total Body Lift Stubborn Cellulite Control. Tip: apply before a workout and before you sleep at night. Wake up next morning and your jeans will just slide on and zip up effortlessly. These really diminish dimpling and thigh diameter considerably. The skin on the thigh, buttocks and tummy are also tighter. Downside: When you stop using them the cellulite will creep back.

Visit www.healthexpressph.com and click "contact us" to find the branch nearest you and their telephone number. For the Herbalife products, call 7515349.



CLARINS Total Body Lift Stubborn Cellulite Control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LIFESTYLE

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PLAYGROUND fashion from Osh Kosh B'Gosh

Tropical fashion for fun and play

SUMMER fashion for children beckoned the return of classes as shown in the recent kiddie catwalk affair by Cinderella at the Ayala Center in connection with the Island Adventures promotion of the mall.

Cinderella featured its brands, such as Cinderella Kids, Osh Kosh B'Gosh, Iha, Body Music and Moosegear.

The stage gave the feel of a Hawaiian luau inspired by Disney's "Lilo and Stitch Island Adventures," a merchandising campaign in connection with the well-loved Disney animated movie.

The collections featured brilliant summer colors, such

TROPICAL/ H2

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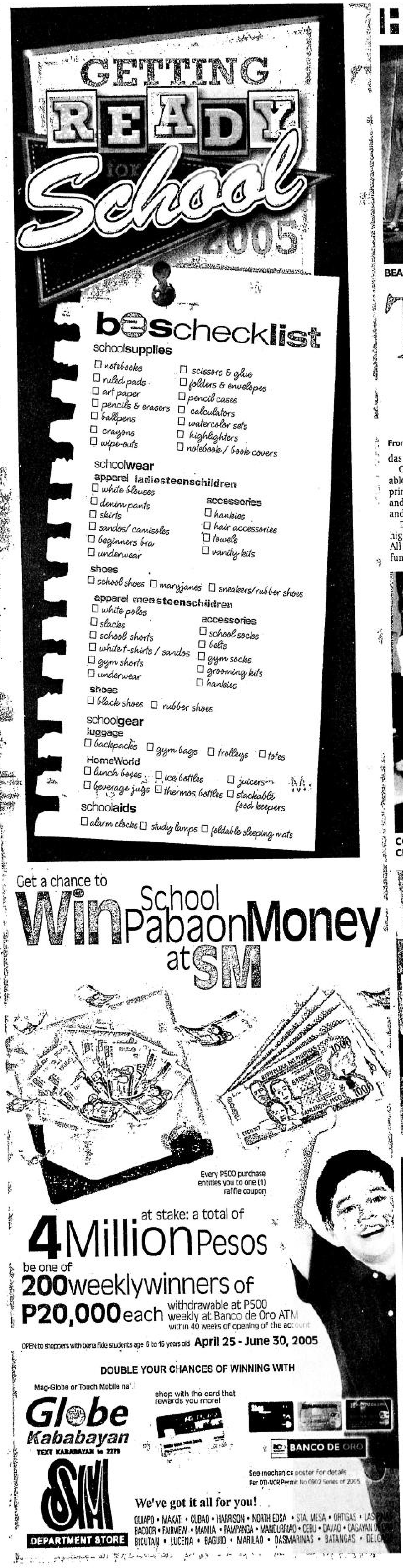
GETTING READY for School 2005

bes checklist

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☐ notebooks
☐ ruled pads
☐ art paper
☐ pencils & erasers
☐ ballpens
☐ crayons
☐ wipe-outs
☐ scissors & glue
☐ folders & envelopes
☐ pencil cases
☐ calculators
☐ watercolor sets
☐ highlighters
☐ notebook / book covers

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apparel ladiesteenschildren
☐ white blouses
☐ denim pants
☐ skirts
☐ sandos/ camisoles
☐ beginners bra
☐ underwear
accessories
☐ hankies
☐ hair accessories
☐ towels
☐ vanity kits
shoes
☐ school shoes ☐ maryjanes ☐ sneakers/rubber shoes
apparel mensteenschildren
☐ white polos
☐ slacks
☐ school shorts
☐ white t-shirts / sandos
☐ gym shorts
☐ underwear
accessories
☐ school socks
☐ belts
☐ gym socks
☐ grooming kits
☐ hankies
shoes
☐ black shoes ☐ rubber shoes

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0902 Series of 2005

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BEACHWEAR from Cinderella Kids

Tropical fashion for fun and play

From page H1

das sunset pastel hues of pink and blue.

Cinderella Kids and Iha combined comfortable styles with tie-dyed patterns and floral prints, while Osh Kosh B' Gosh, Moosegear and Body Music featured casual khaki pants and shorts with bold-colored sport tees.

Denim shorts, pants and mini-skirts were highlighted by colorful patchwork designs. All in all, the fashion was playful, stylish and functional.

COMFORTABLE yet stylish play clothes from Cinderella Kids

TROPICAL wear from IHA

SURFING chic from Osh Kosh B'Gosh

CLASSROOM casuals from Osh Kosh B'Gosh

MOOSEGEAR

IHA

OSH Kosh B'Gosh

MOMMY Elena always gives sound financial advice to her daughter Iya.

HARD shopper Iya Villania admits her mommy Elena is "her voice of reason" when it comes to shopping.

Ready cash for family needs

"I'M A STAGE daughter," Myx VJ and Wowowee host Iya Villania jokes as she fusses over her mommy Elena's outfit for the day.

No doubt about it, mother and-daughter are indeed a team. Both admit they love fashion and shopping. They are also self-admitted "*kuripots*."

That is how these two are when it comes to the important things in life, such as education: they know where their priorities lie.

"*Kahit nung nasa* Australia *pa kami, talagang nagsisipag ako na magtrabaho para makapag-aral si* Iya *sa magagandang* schools," Mommy Elena admits.

Even now that Iya is fast becoming one of the most popular young talents in showbiz, education remains her priority. Aside from studying AB Psychology at the De La Salle University, Iya also takes computer courses at the Asian College of Science and Technology (ACSAT). and is planning to take culinary courses.

This time, though, even as she is earning her own keep, Iya is proud to say that her own earnings are used to pay for her schooling.

"It's my own hard-earned money that I use to pay for the tuition, the miscellaneous fees, books, supplies, everything," she says.

Still, despite this daughter's financial independence, it's hard to take the mother out of Mommy Elena. "*Binibigay sa 'kin ni* Iya *'yung* 100 percent *ng kinikita niya para i-*handle *ko 'yung* finances *niya. Binibigyan ko siya ng* advice *sa paggastos, lalo na sa malalaking bagay na kinakailangan niya gaya ng sarili niyang* place, *tsaka 'yung* schooling *niya...*"

IYA and mommy Elena Villania

It's a great thing they now have a Metrobank credit card. Iya and Mommy Elena are excited to use their credit cards not just for shopping for 0-percent installment appliance promos for their new home but also for basic needs such as tuition fees and other school needs.

Metrobank credit card's Cash-to-Go B.E.A.T. Installment Program was designed for parents like Mommy Elena who care to give the very best for their children. Through this installment program, Metrobank credit card holders can easily avail of funds fast—within one hour.

No need to submit official receipts, cost estimates or quotation forms and no unnecessary waiting time. What's more, the cardholder can enjoy instant cash that's equivalent to his or her available credit limit.

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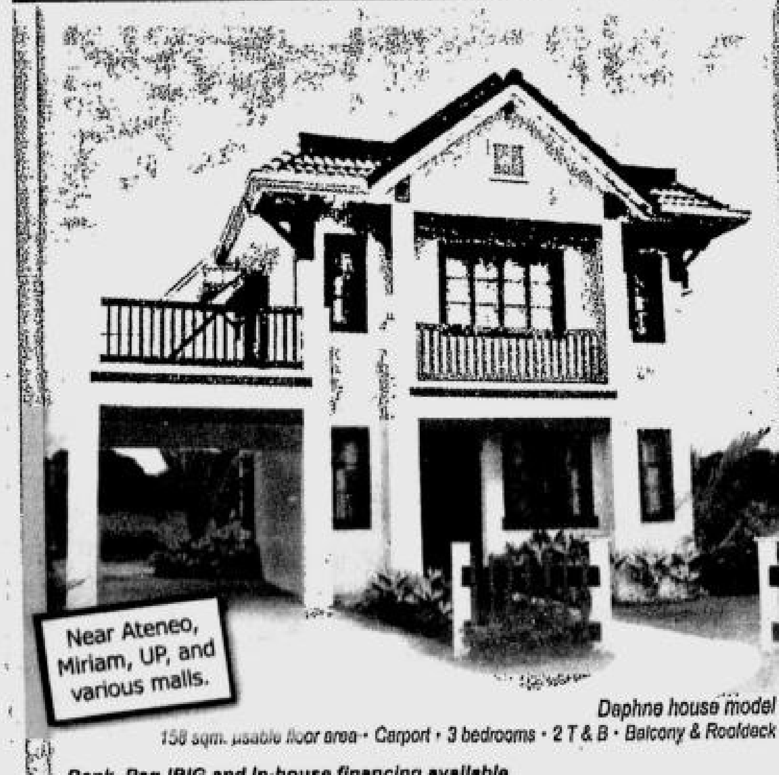
It's a great solution for every family's financial need and a great help in fulfilling every parent's desire to give the best for their children. All it takes to enjoy the Cash-to-Go B.E.A.T. Installment Program is the trusted Metrobank credit card.

The Cash-to-Go B.E.A.T. Installment Program is available through all Metrobank credit cards: Metrobank Visa, Metrobank Mastercard and Metrobank Value Mastercard.



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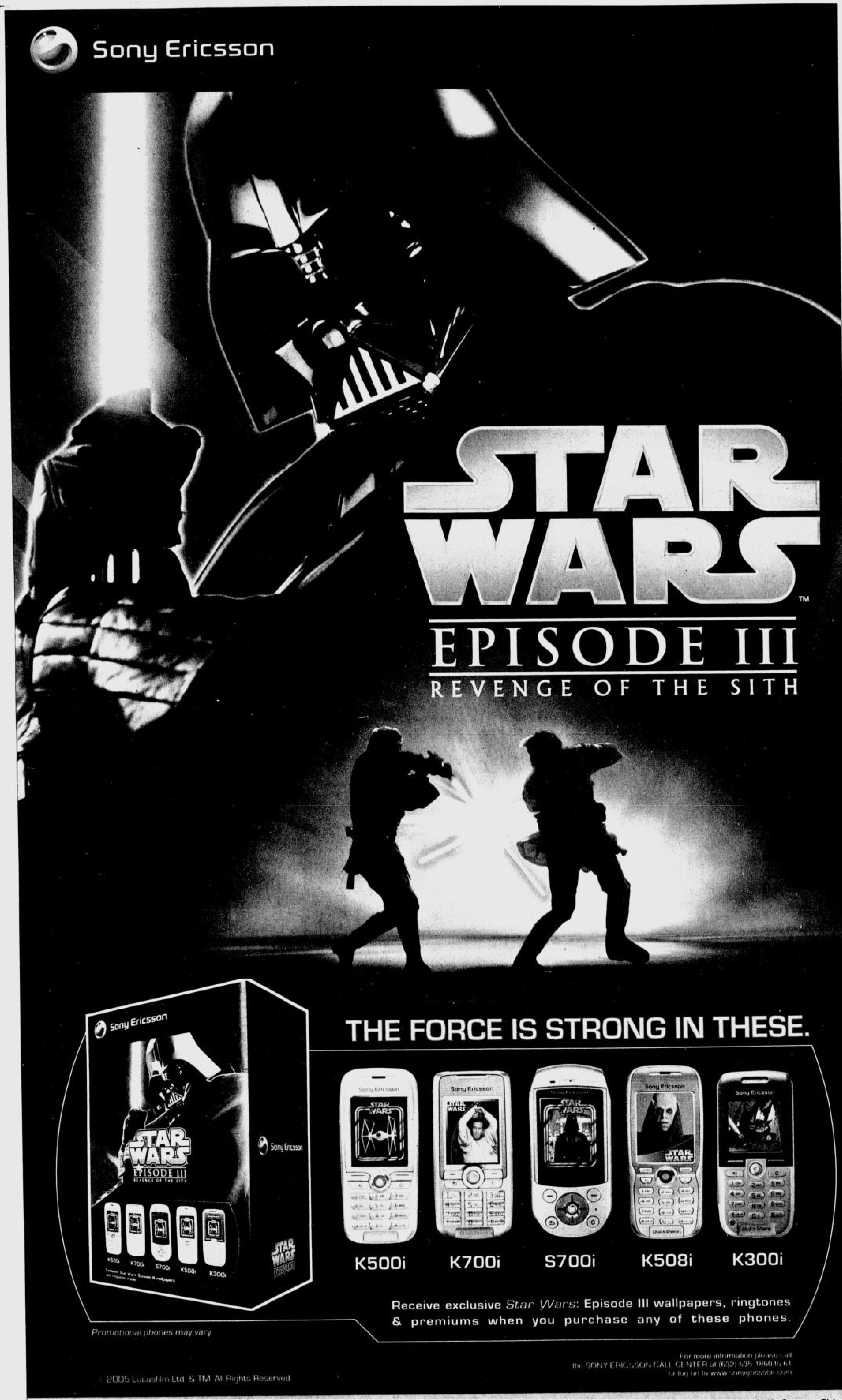

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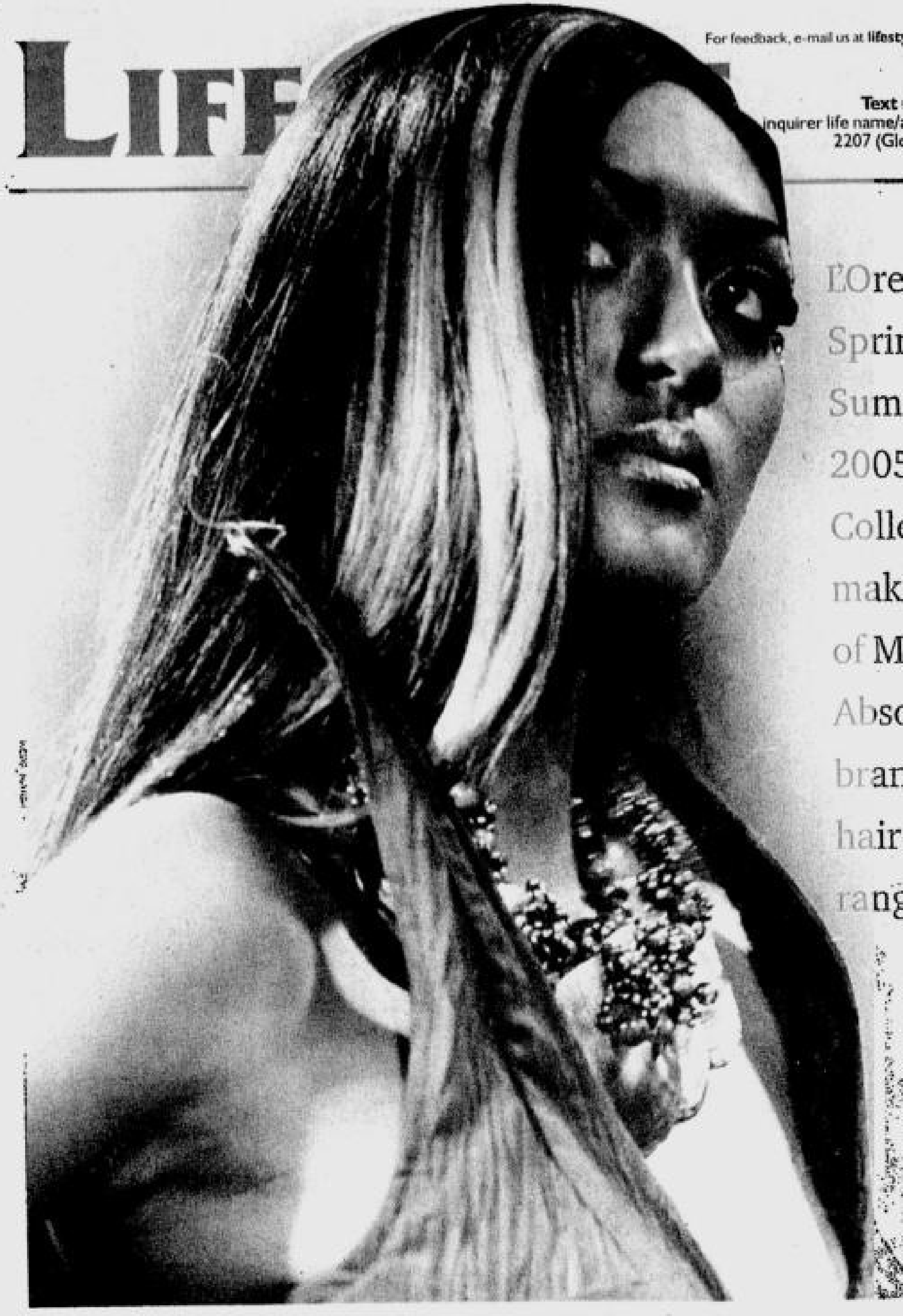
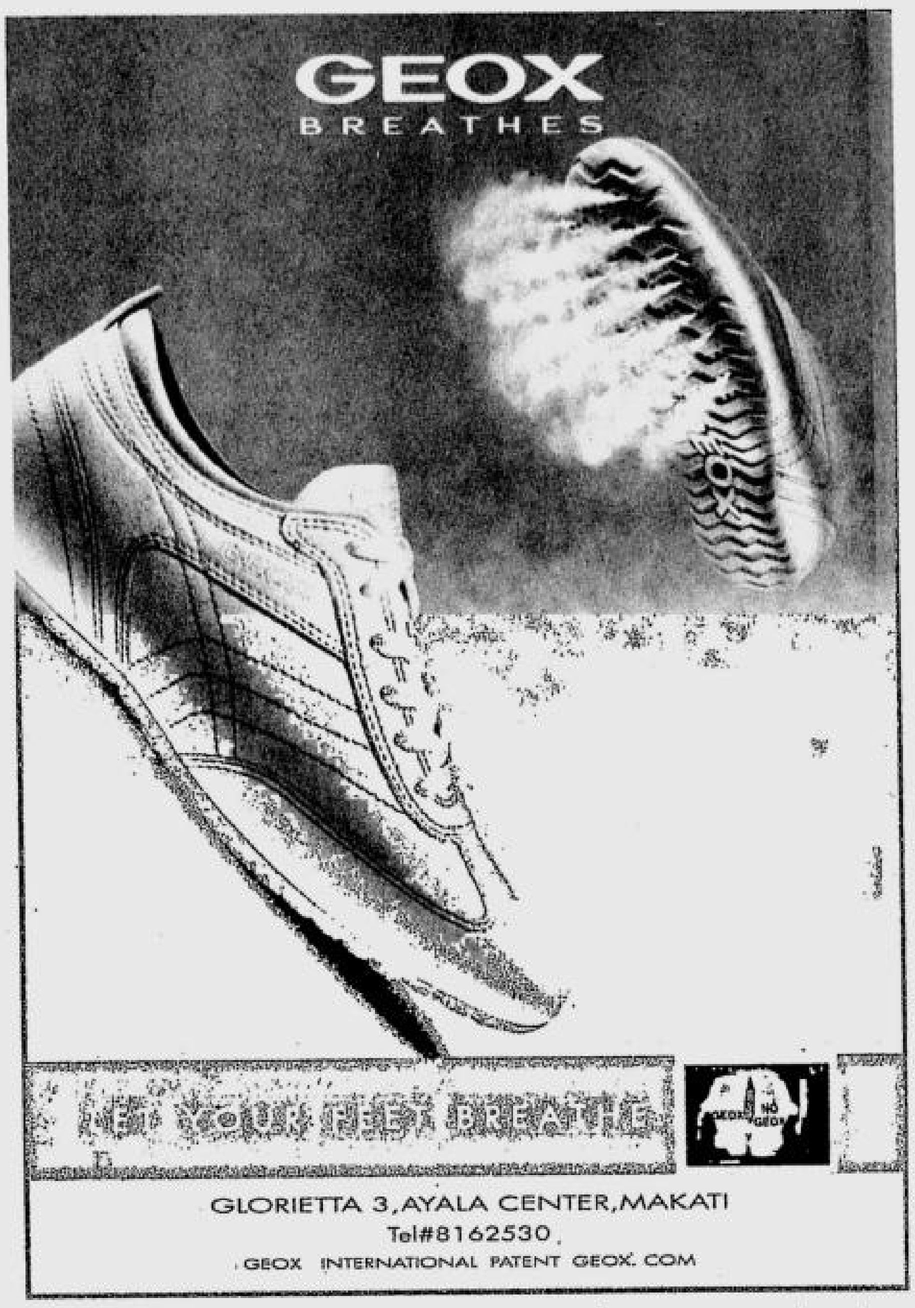


"LATIN DIVA." Golden flecks evocative of the setting sun against long, ebony tresses

L'Oreal's Spring/Summer 2005 Collection makes use of Majirel Absolu, the brand's latest hair-color range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Sensual sunset shades

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"MOROCCO Muse"—going short and light

WHAT beautiful skin is to the Chinese and god-like bod to the Greeks is glorious mane to Filipinos.

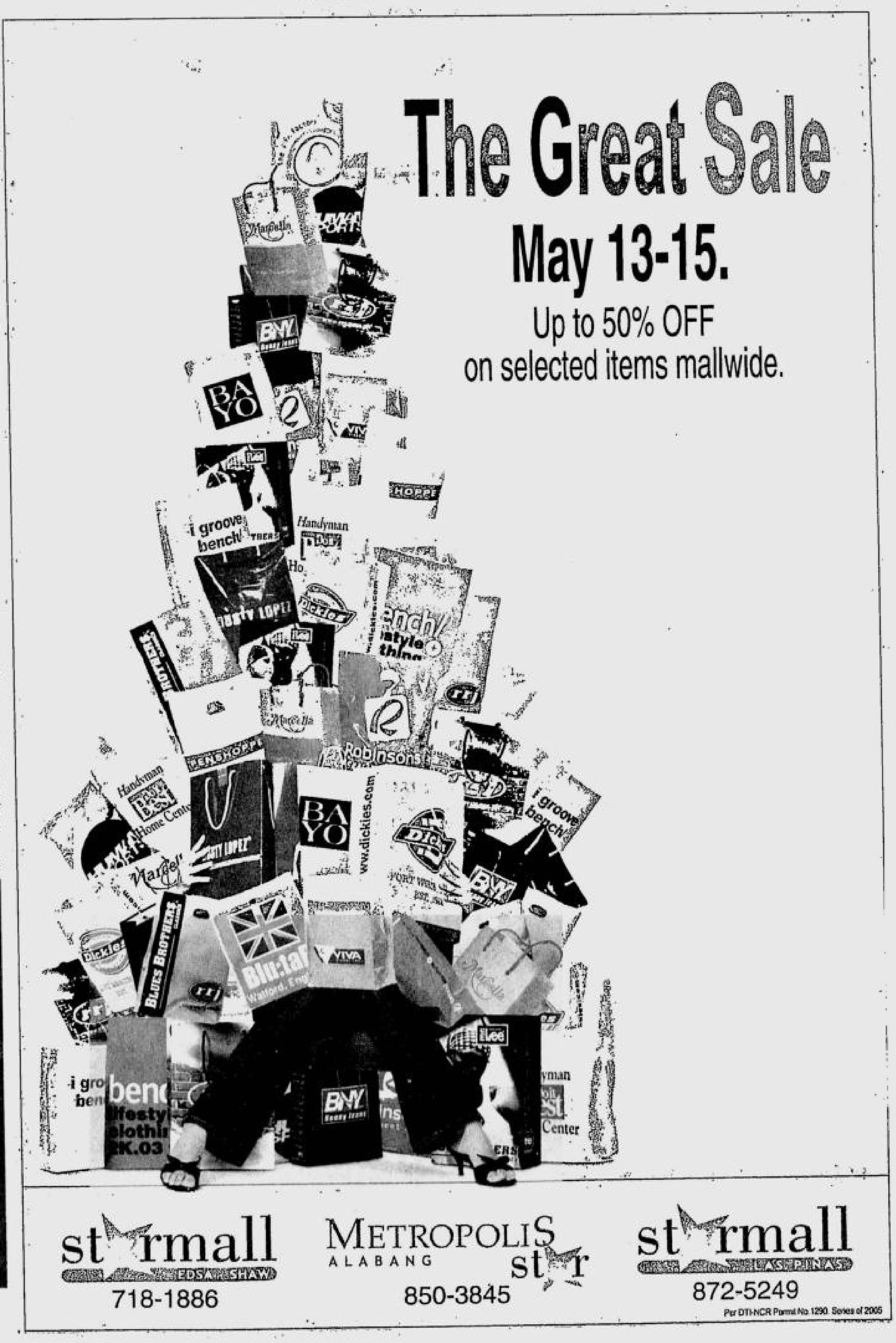
That's according to David Ennes, managing director of L'Oreal Phils. The French cosmetics company thus didn't disappoint hundreds of local hairstylists who came to witness the launch of its latest hair trends and hair colors in an exciting show held recently at the New World Renaissance Hotel.

L'Oreal's Spring/Summer 2005 Collection's theme was called "Sunset Divas," and made use of Majirel Absolu, the brand's latest professional hair-color range.

Leading the top local stylists in an awe-inspiring live cutting and styling demo were British hair expert Andrew Barton and his partner, Tracey Gallagher. Barton is the international creative director of Saks, the leading franchise salon group in the United Kingdom.

SENSUAL/12

"RIVIERA Siren" by Danny Katalbas of Emphasis Salon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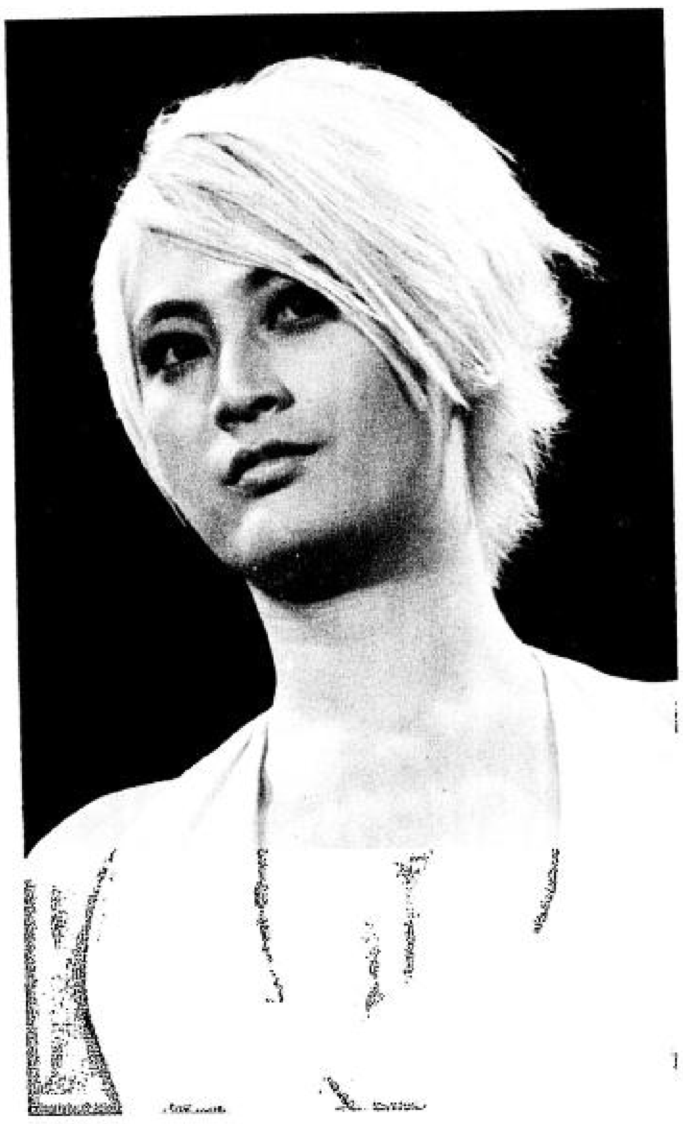
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1290, Series of 2005

SOME waves and lots of color for long-tressed Filipinas



PLATINUM charm

Sensual sunset shades

From page I1

Barton and Gallagher were joined onstage by Danny Katalbas of Emphasis Salon, Francis Quiñones of Piandré, Meldy Miram of Hairbytes and Nelson Cruz of Essensuals Toni & Guy. Each wowed the audience both with real looks and elaborate styles for editorials.

Flexible looks

"Sunset Divas" is composed of three themes with looks flexible enough for before and after sundown. "Morocco Muse" is inspired by exotic Marrakesh with flaxen shades that will entice the adventurous. Sensual and opulent Miami is the basis for "Riviera Siren" with wild wavy locks spiked with golden flecks. "Latin Diva," eclectic and bohemian, is evocative of Acapulco—long tresses made vibrant with scarlet hues.

Majirel Absolu's latest colors range from the softest apricot shade to luxe gold metallics to stark platinum. Majirel, whose tagline is "the best just got better," is claimed by L'Oreal Professionel as the "most technologically advanced hair-color range."

Its hair-care system uses Ionène G and Incell that are said to treat each hair strand, making it strong, healthy and manageable. Majirel's improved formula claims even and uniform root-to-tip color, and keeps hair shiny and radiant for 6-8 weeks.

With these claims, L'Oreal Professionel hopes to reassure Filipinos who enjoy that bit of adventure with occasional hair-color variation, and convince locals who treasure their healthy locks that with colors from Majirel's tubes, there's no harm done to their precious mane.

BRITISH hairstylist Andrew Barton at work

NELSON Cruz of Essensuals Toni & Guy

BIG and wild by Tracey Gallagher

Lights up for a luxury brand

LOUIS Vuitton, the world's leading luxury brand, marks another important milestone with the unveiling of the world's first colored, moving-image LED store façade at the grand opening of the brand's Lee Gardens store in Hong Kong.

To mark the event, Korean superstar Ji Jin Hee joined Louis Vuitton Asia-Pacific executive vice president François Delage and Hysan Development managing director Michael Lee for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. This was followed by an exclusive press preview of Louis Vuitton's elegant Pre-Fall Collection presented by top models, including Balia Chan and Sofia Wallin.

The highlight of the grand opening was the evening Illumination Ceremony officiated by Ji, Delage and Lee. The dramatic façade was lit with a choreographed light show created by Dutch lighting architect Rogier van der Heide and Steve Nield of Malaysia.

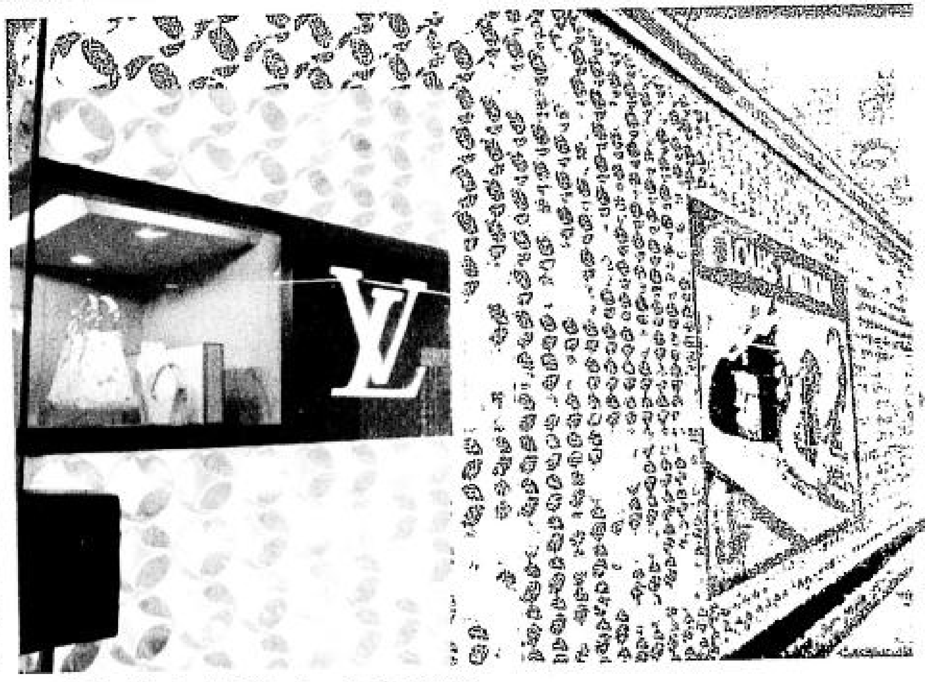
The guests, mostly members of Hong Kong high society and other celebrities, gathered for the event decked in Louis Vuitton finery and sporting chic Louis Vuitton accessories. Ji himself wore a selection from the Louis Vuitton Men's Ready-to-Wear Collection as well as the latest Speedy watch.

The Lee Gardens store façade is another example of Louis Vuitton's attention to details and its being at the forefront of store design.

The 322-sq m façade is 17 meters x 10 meters wide and features 8,000 LED lights. The screen is the world's first actively controlled LED screen to feature color moving images instead of stationary color.

The dramatic façade of the Lee Gardens features 16,000 stainless steel rings which, when reversed, creates a simplified version of the House's legendary Monogram Flower motif. Designed by the Store Projects Department in partnership with legendary architectural firm Arups (also responsible for the Sydney Opera House and the Hong Kong International Airport), the Lee Gardens sets the stan-

MODELS in Louis Vuitton pre-Fall collection



FAÇADE of the Louis Vuitton Lee Gardens store

LOUIS VUITTON · LOUIS VUITTON LOUIS VU

FRANÇOIS Delage, executive vice president of Louis Vuitton Asia Pacific, Korean superstar Ji Jin Hee, and Michael Lee, managing director of Hysan Development, at the ribbon-cutting

CHRISTINE Ng and Fanny Sieh, among the many Hon Kong socialites and celebrities attending the store ope

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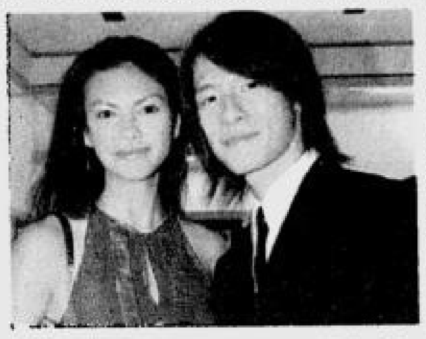
TORIAL-READY looks using Majirel Absolu

DY Miram of Hairbytes Salon with model



ROSEMARY Vanderbroucke and Brian Li

JI JIN Hee and Candice Yu

dard in Asia Pacific for modern luxury.

The Louis Vuitton Lee Gardens store began in 1997 with the opening of the leather-goods store facing Yun Ping Road. The relocated store has almost tripled in size and moved across the atrium, expanding from 129 sq m to 330 sq m today. It is an exclusive shopping haven for women, being dedicated to women's Ready-to-Wear.

Designed by the Louis Vuitton Store Projects Team, Louis Vuitton's signature New-Concept interior features Anegrés timber shelves and limestone floors. Thick wool carpets and leather-clad tables accent the luxurious space. The shoe area features new-concept furniture in architectural shapes, including leather-upholstered chairs and tables that guarantee an intimate and refined shopping experience.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is on the ground floor level of Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Visit www.louisvuitton.com

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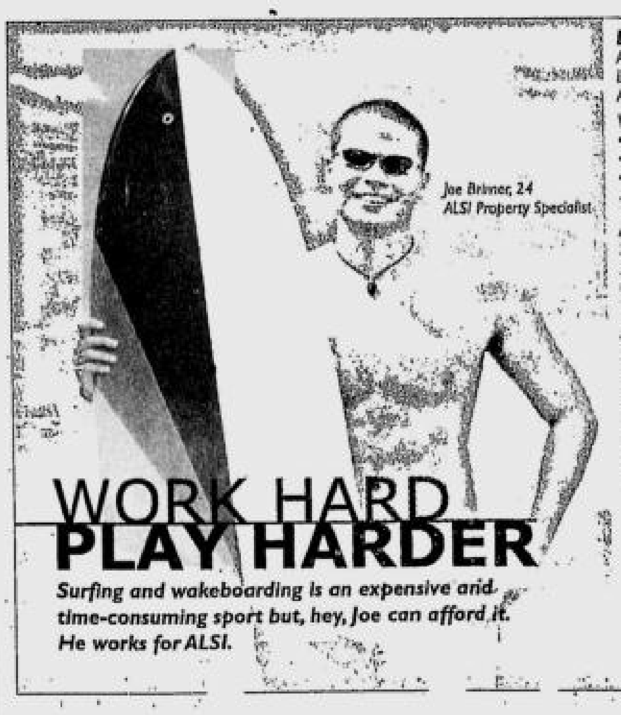

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ALSI is also hiring a Sales Manager and Property Specialists for Pampanga Office. E-mail resumé with color picture to alsi@ayalaland.com.ph and indicate 'Pampanga Application of <your name>' on the subject line. Applicants who are residents of Northern Luzon are also welcome.*

Submission of resumé is from May 8 to 20, 2005.

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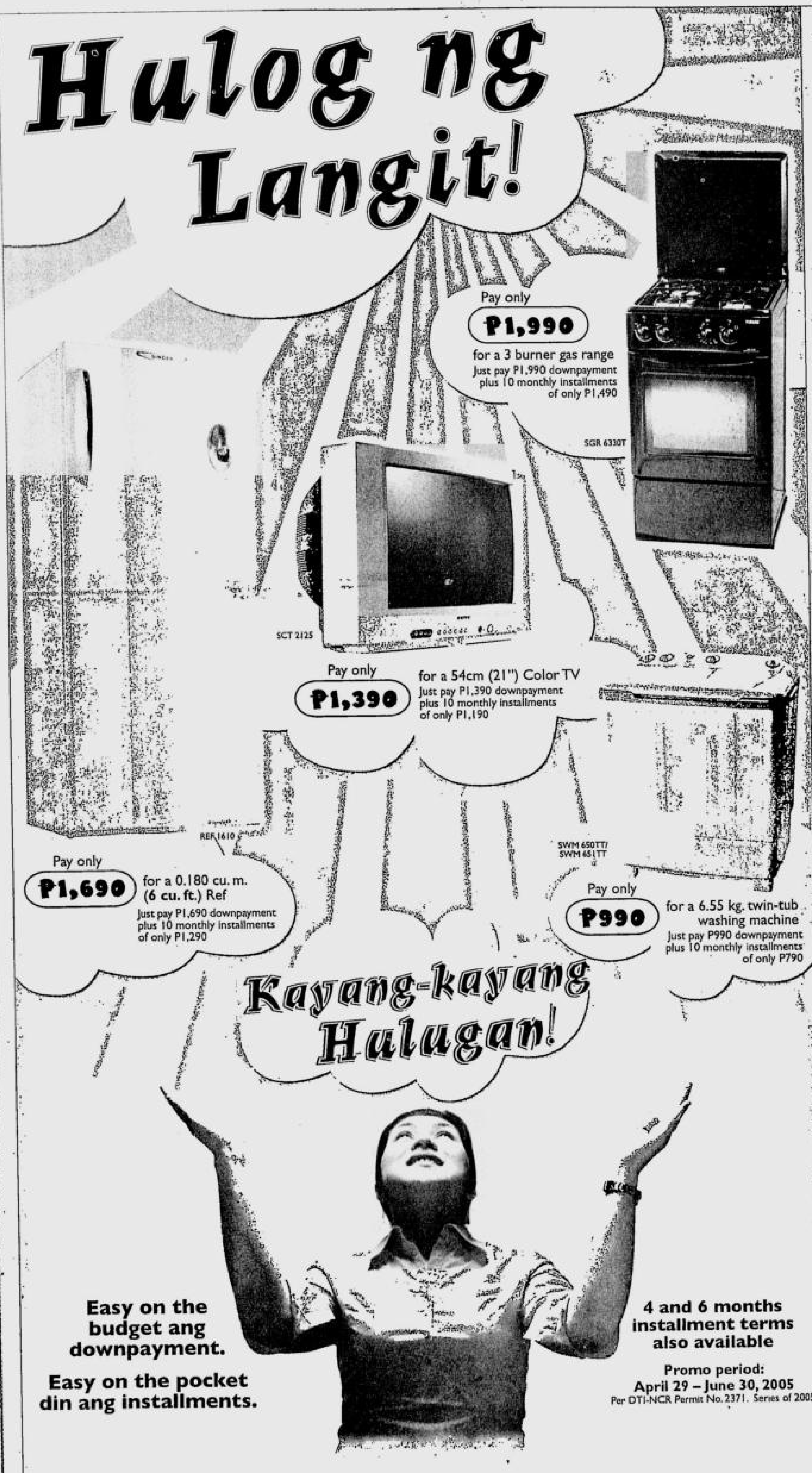

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Whole-day fiesta at San Lorenzo

BARANGAY San Lorenzo will hold a whole-day Balik-Katutubo fiesta on May 21, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. To be featured are a food fair, traditional games, and rices, arts and crafts, sale of Filipiniana books and performance of Leonor Orosa Goquingco's "Filipinescas: Philippine Life, Legend and Lore in Dance."

PROMO. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall will hold a sale today, tomorrow and on May 15. Get big discounts of 50-70 percent on a wide selection of merchandise from over 250 boutiques and specialty stores. Get a chance to win home appliances in the raffle during the sale. Exchange P300 single or accumulated purchase receipt for a coupon. Drop your raffle coupons in the 13th anniversary giveaway promo for a chance to drive home an X-Trail, plus other prizes during the grand draw on May 20. Deadline for submission of coupons is May 18. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall is located at Marcos Highway cor. Felix Ave., Cainta, Rizal. Call 6815401.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features pianist Najib Ismail in "Songs and Dances for Piano" tonight at 6. Admission is free.

UST GRADUATE SCHOOL

THE UST Graduate School and its Alumni Association recently gave the St. Antoninus of Florence Award to outstanding alumni in various disciplines and the San Antonio Pierozzi Award to its benefactors. St. Antoninus awardees are Cleotilde Arcangel (Education); Margarita delos Reyes-Cojuangco (History); Rosalito de Guzman (Psychology); Benjamin Espiritu (Public Administration); Carlo Ricardo Magno (Commerce); Edgardo Paras (Law); Michael Jorge Peralta (Physical Therapy); Bernadette Racadio (Literature); Josefina Sarau (Chemistry); Belen Tiangco (Political Science) and Florentino Timbreza (Philosophy). San Antonio Pierozzi awardees are William Co, Conrado Yap, professors Marilyn Yap, Marcelo Casillan, Teresita Quirino, Caroline Rogge, Feliciano Roque and Ramon Ricardo Roque. Photo shows (from left) Timbreza, Fr. Fausto Gomez, Mercedes Eleuterio, Fr. Tamerlane Lana and Dean Lilian Sison. Standing (from left) are Sarau, De Guzman, Cojuangco, Racadio, Tiangco, Paras, Magno, Peralta and Espiritu.

GOINGS ON

TRADE FAIR. The Foreign Chambers Small & Medium Enterprises Trade Fair will be held today and tomorrow, 10 a.m.- 7 p.m., at Philippine Trade Training Center in Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Trade Sec. Juan Santos will be the guest speaker at Joint Chambers Luncheon at Westin Philippine Plaza today. Call 8187911 to 13.

SALE. The Robinsons Malls will hold a sale today until May 15. Avail of up to 50-percent discount on selected items. Shoppers can also see their favorite jocks from Wave 89.1 in Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Place Imus today and tomorrow, 2-8 p.m. Call 6836137/ 6836100.

FESTIVAL. Albay celebrates Magayon Festival today until May 29. Events include regional cooking competition and marathon from Albay to Mayon Volcano. Call (052) 4800712.

FUN DAY. Starmall Edsa will hold Kids' Fun Day tomorrow, 3 p.m., at the 2nd level, Activity Area. Enjoy a storytelling session with Ronald McDonald. Admission is free.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park presents the Araullo University Dance Troupe of Cabanatuan on May 15, 6 p.m. at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

WORKSHOPS. The Communication Foundation for Asia will hold workshops on Radio Voice Acting and Dubbing on May 24 and 27; Scriptwriting for TV and Film, May 25-28; and Basic Sign Language, June 18 and 25, July 2, 9, 16 and 23. Venue is at CFA Building, 4427 Interior Old Sta. Mesa, Manila. Call 7132732/ 7147233/ 7132981.

WORKSHOP. The Metropolitan Museum of Manila will hold Gold Rush: A Kids' Arts and Crafts Workshop on May 30-June 10, 10 a.m.-12 noon. This is open to grade school students aged 7-12. Call 5237855/ 5361566.

SEMINAR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc., in cooperation with the Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions will hold a seminar-workshop on Collection Management in a Digital Environment on July 11-12 at Philippine Business for Social Progress, PBSP Building, Real cor. Magallanes Sts., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858.

WORKSHOPS. Mindlinks Academic Advancement and Review Center offers summer workshops open to young people aged 7-9, 10-12 and 13-17. These include Reading and Language Arts Workshops, Math and Science Workshops, and Art Workshops. UPCAT and college entrance review classes are also offered. Call 6581729.

SALE. Imported crochet, embroidery and sewing threads, bias tapes, ribbons, felt retazos, fiberfill stuffing, finished and unfinished crochet projects, and imported magazines are on sale. Call EC Estrada at 7229380.

LOLITA Escobar Mirpuri, three-time president of All Nations Women's Group and vice-chair of ways and means committee of PGH Medical Foundation, Inc., receives Peace Award for International Understanding and Community Relations from former First Lady Imelda Marcos and philanthropist Loida Nicolas-Lewis.

UST holds summer institute on literature reading and teaching

THE UNIVERSITY of Sto. Tomas Committee on Literature is conducting a summer institute on the reading and teaching of literature with a seminar entitled "Guess Who's Coming to Listen? Shaking the Reading and Teaching Grounds Beneath our Feet," on May 17,18 and 19 at the audio-visual room of the St. Raymond's (AB-Commerce) building.

This enrichment program for teachers of literature is designed to problematize the reading of literature in order to generate meaningful discoveries that will upgrade and update the literature pedagogy in the country.

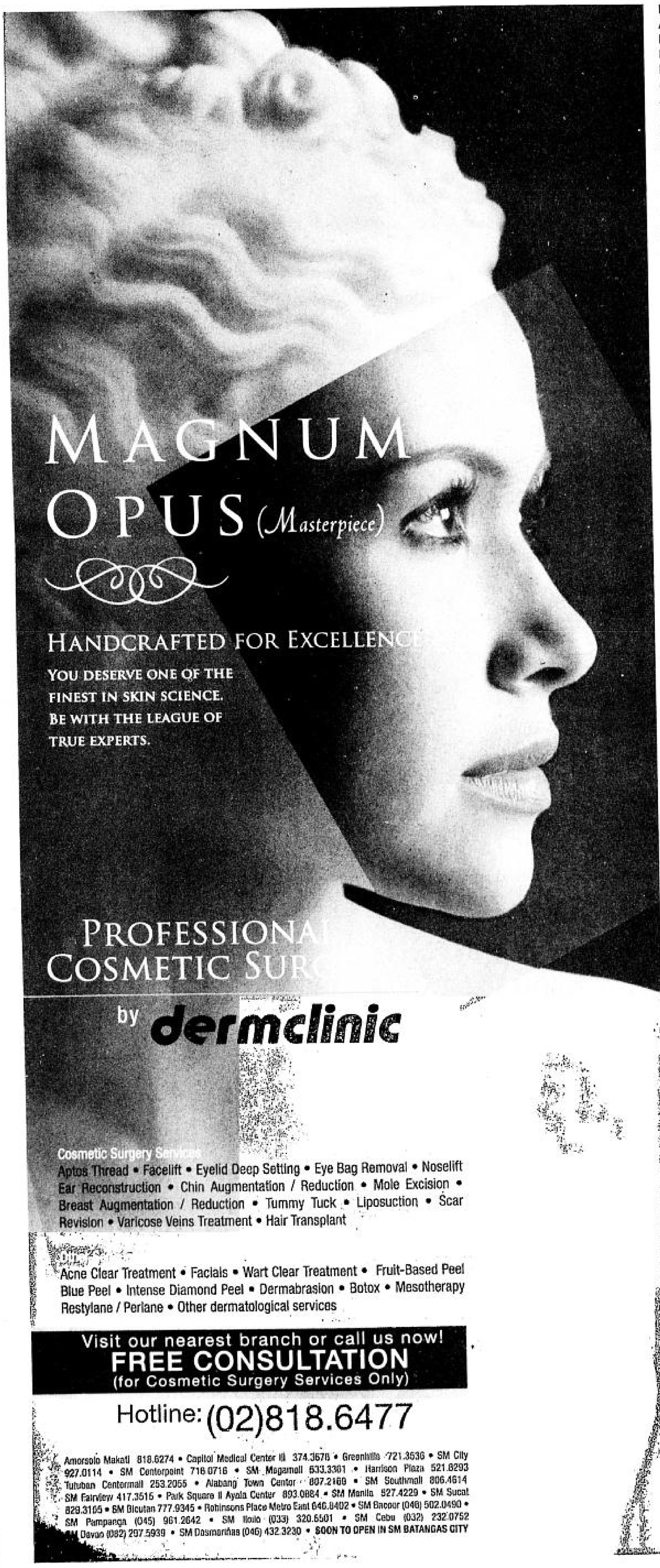
The seminar is open to literature teachers from other schools as part of UST's community outreach program. Seminar fee is only P1,500 inclusive of food and kit.

Dr. Armando de Jesus, UST's vice rector for academic affairs, will open the seminar, while Dr. Milagros Tanlayco, professor emeritus of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, will give the keynote address, focusing on the Thomasian literature teacher.

Lectures for the plenary session will be delivered by the following: Prof. Lito Zulueta on "Text Sovereignty and the Legacy of New Criticism"; Prof. Ferdinand Lopez, "Reading Sexuality in Literature"; Prof. Joyce Arriola, "Reading Films as Postmodern Text"; Prof. Rebecca Añonuevo, "Teaching Gender in Literature"; Prof. Gary Devilles, "Reading Class Struggles in Filipino Texts"; and Prof. Oscar Campomanes, "Reading Postcoloniality as Neocolonial Critique."

Participants are expected to share innovative teaching strategies and creative classroom approaches toward an informed and effective literary praxis.

Non-UST teachers must pre-register. They may call Prof. Nenet Galang-Pereña (0917)8166548.



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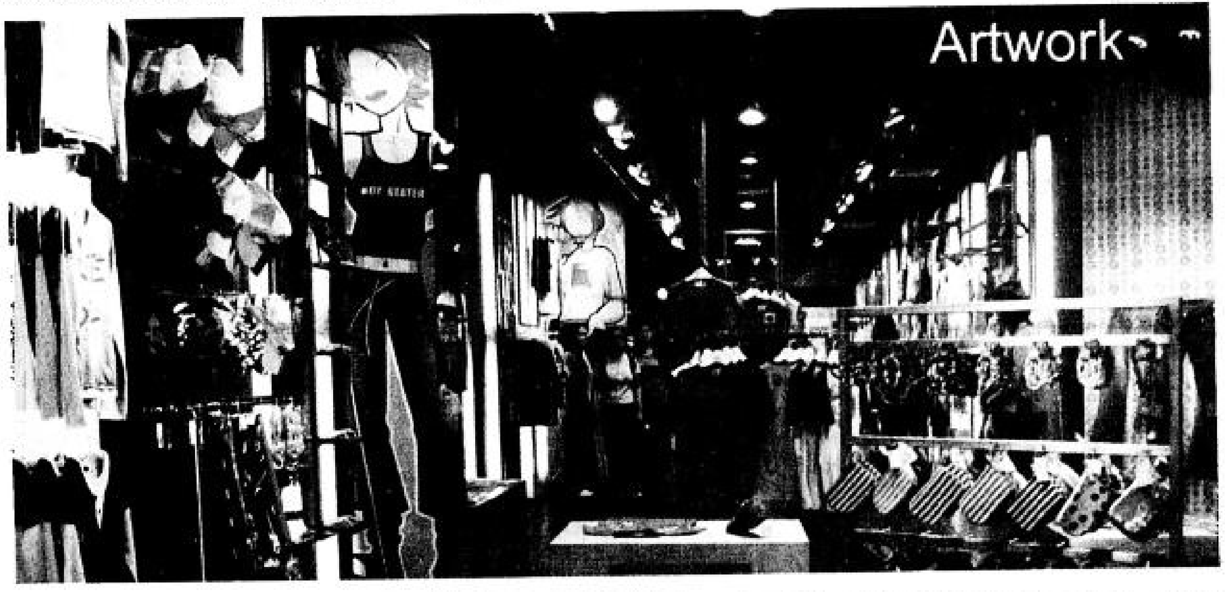

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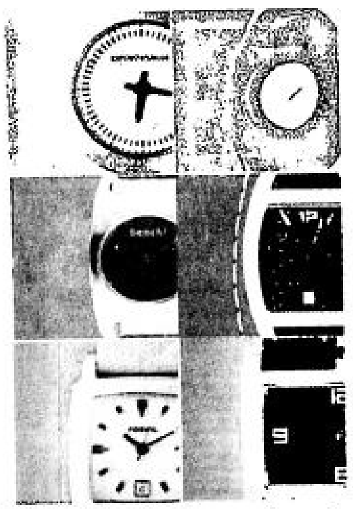

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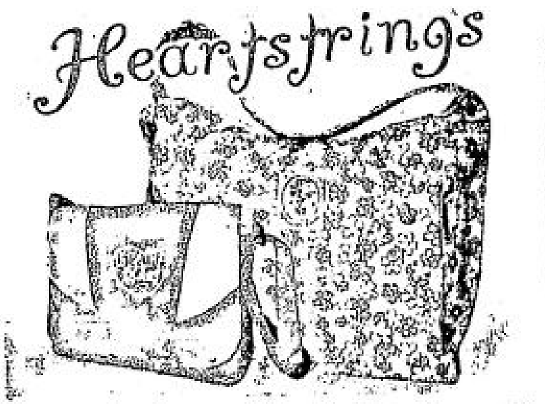
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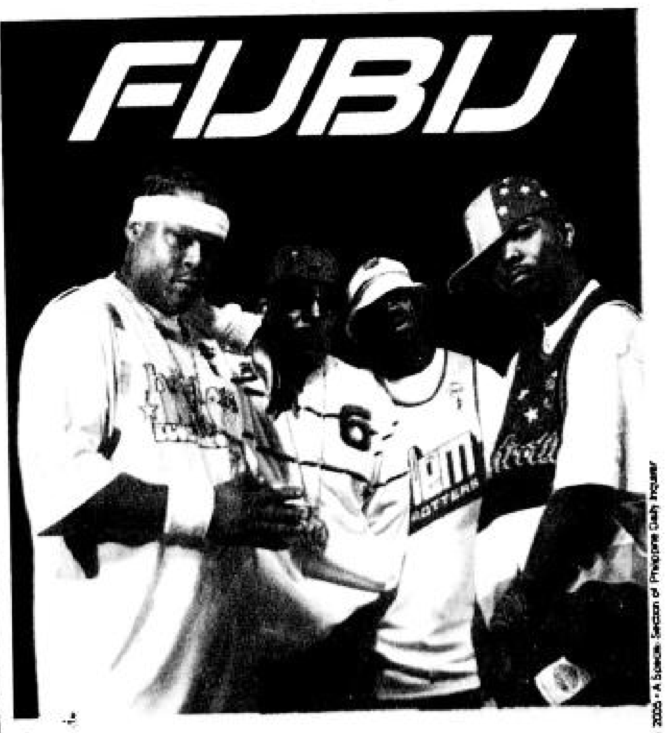

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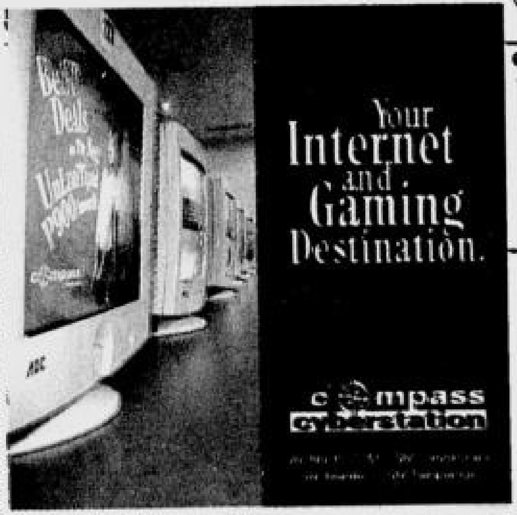

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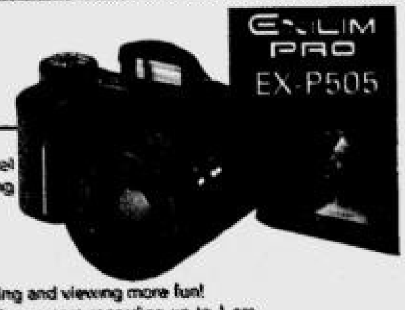

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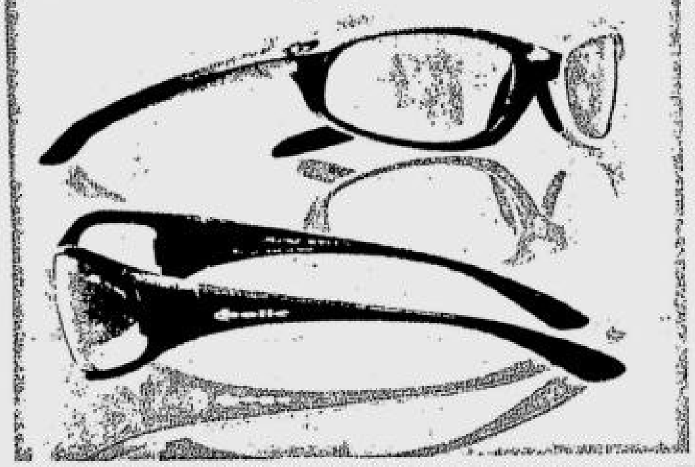

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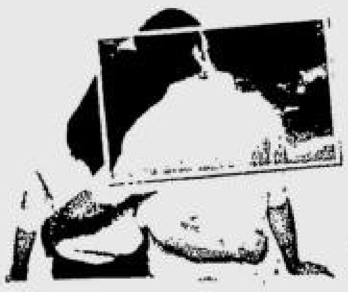

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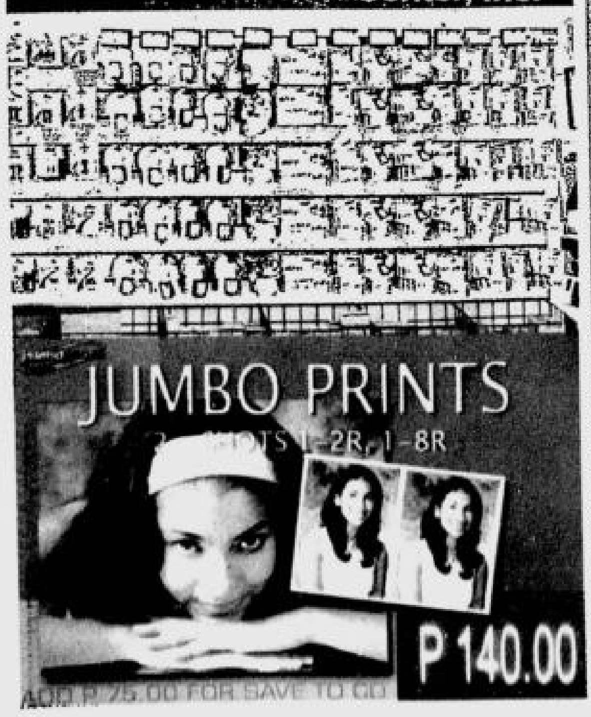
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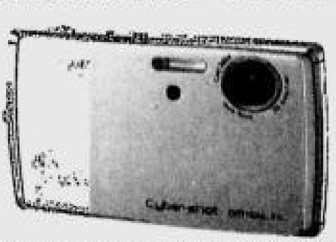

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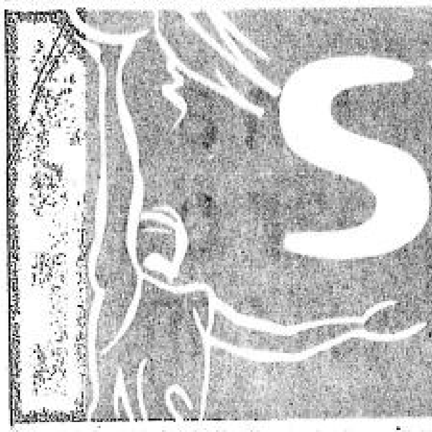
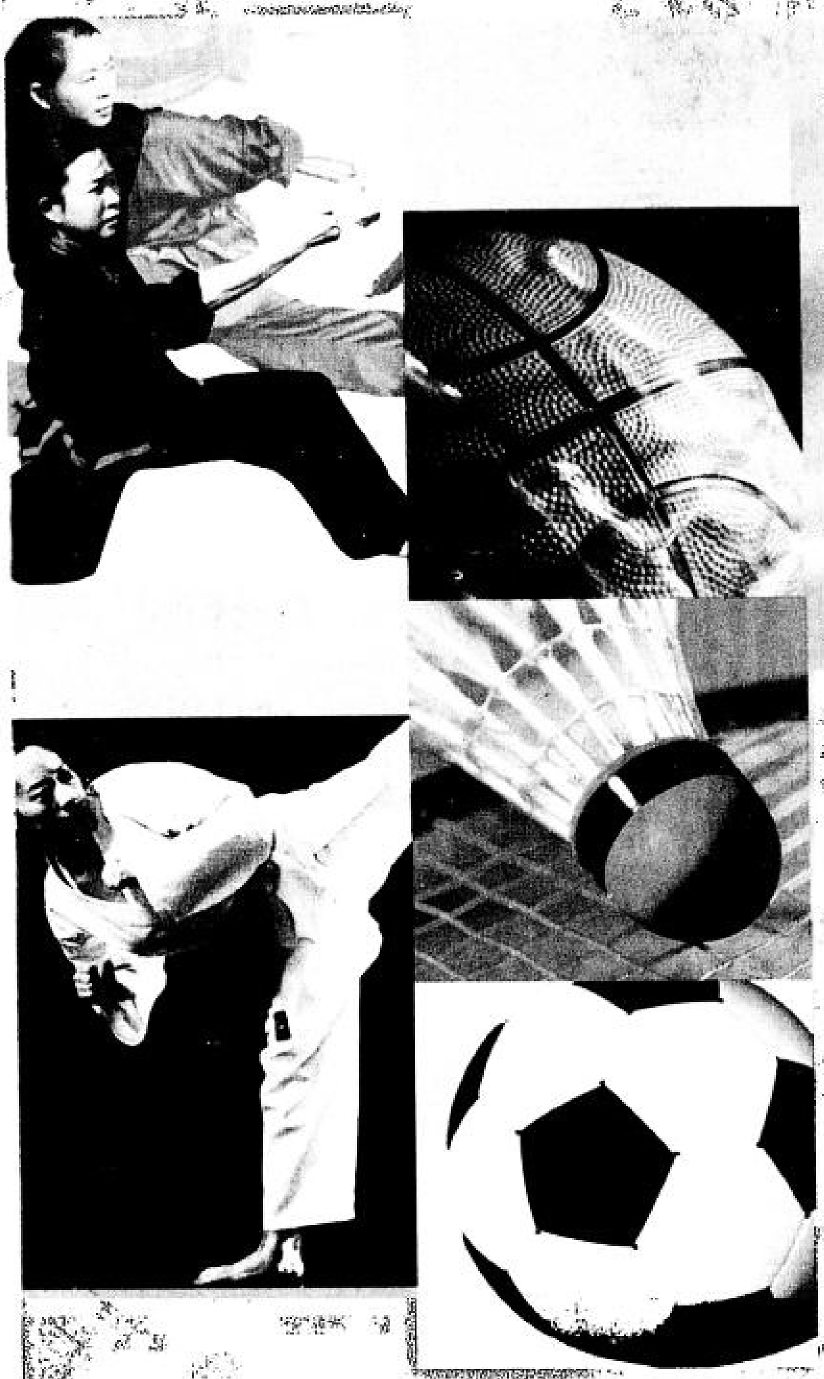




FOOTBALL

Let the experts show you how to kick that ball — or block it. Learn what makes football the fastest growing major sport in Asia.

CLIMBING

Test your climbing skills by scaling a simulated vertical mountain wall! So, be the first to the top!

WUSHU

Said to be the most graceful among the martial arts. Watch and learn from the experts.

TAEKWONDO

Find out why this Korean martial art is so popular.

BASKETBALL

See your favorite PBA stars go one-on-one and give you pointers on how to really score those baskets.

BILLIARDS by

Watch the masters compete and learn the tricks that could turn you into the next Efren "Bata" Reyes.

KARATEDO by AAK

Marvel as Karate experts demonstrate the various offensive/defensive techniques of this ancient Japanese martial art.

Juniors OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

JVC

Currently the rave of the racket games. Discover what makes this sport so exciting.

JVC

making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE

EVENT SCHEDULES

SM City Sta. Mesa		
	Taekwondo	May 14
SM City Dasmarinas		
	Wushu	May 21-22
SM City Pampanga		
	Football	May 11-12
	Basketball	May 16-22
SM City Bicutan		
	Basketball	May 09-15
	Karatedo	May 22
SM City Batangas		
	Taekwondo	May 17-18
	Basketball	May 23-29
SM Ctiy Cebu		
	Basketball	June 03
SM City North Edsa		
	Taekwondo	May 21-22
SM City Sucat		
	Football	May 17-18
SM City Baguio		
	Taekwondo	May 24-25
	Basketball	June 06-11
SM City Davao		
	Badminton	May 14-15
	Basketball	June 10
SM City Manila		
	Taekwondo	May 11-12
	Billiards	May 16
	Basketball	May 30-June 5
SM Southmall		
	Taekwondo	May 14-15
	Badminton	May 21-22
SM City Iloilo		
	Football	May 25-26
SM Megamall		
	Badminton	May 27-29
SM City Bacoor		
	Basketball	May 09-15
	Football	May 21-22
SM City Marilao		
	Football	May 14-15
	Basketball	May 16-26
SM City Cagayan De Oro		
	Basketball	June 09

BIKE PLUS

26" MTB
16" MINI MTB
BATTERY OPERATED
RD-007
RD-004
RIDE-ON CAR

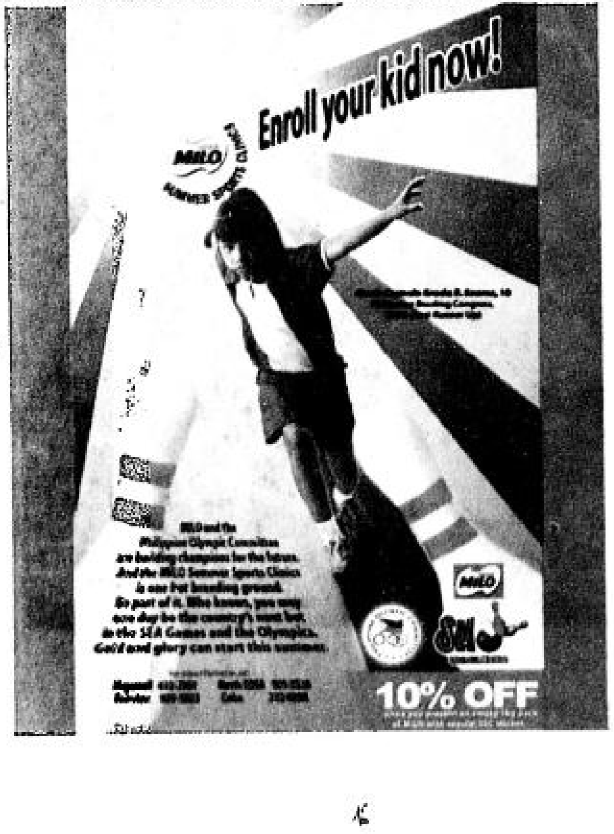
- SM City Bicutan LGF-Bldg. A
- SM City Fairview LGF-Main Bldg.
- SM City North Edsa LGF-Main Bldg.

Mizuno

for your golfing needs

Cycle Shack

Quality cycling basics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MILO Summer Sports Clinics
MILO and the Philippine Olympic Committee are building champions for the future. And the MILO Summer Sports Clinics is our first breeding ground. Be part of it. Who knows, you may one day be the country's next bet in the SEA Games and the Olympics. Gold and glory can start this summer.
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